



Committee:

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Newsletter 28

"The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty."

Honorary Members: Gene Roddenberry, Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Siddig El Fadil, Walter Koenig, John de Lancie & Marnie Mosiman, Mark Lenard, Michael Okuda, Ernie Over, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Gay Vardaman, Rupert Evans, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt, Bjo Trimble.

We would like to welcome all our new IDIC members and to give a special welcome to to Siddig El Fadil who plays Dr. Julian Bashir in Deep Space Nine. Siddig was a very popular guest at Warp One and we hope it will not be too long before he comes over for another British ST con. Sheila found him charming; in the unlikely event that she ever decided to go in for having a toy boy.....

We would like to thank both Karen and Helen for covering Warp One for us. Due to being short of space in this newsletter (as usual) we have just printed Marina's and Siddig's talks this time and held over Richard Arnold's and Chas Evan's talks until next newsletter. It will be out before Contagion so we'll have the fun(!) of trying to cover both Contagion and Holodeck in the October newsletter.

Warp One will not go down as one of our best conventions but that is not the fault of the committee. It was the largest convention to be held in Britain with 1700 attendees - and even then they had to turn some away. The guests were excellent - Marina and Siddig gave an hour's talk each day and spent about 2 hours each day signing autographs. They stayed at a hotel, but Richard Arnold -veteran

con-goer that he is - stayed in a chalet. He said it was one of the smallest rooms he's had and he had to remember to shut the curtains before putting the light on. Richard did say that the Berengaria hall was one of the best halls he has seen at any convention.

Very noticeable at the camp were all the gulls, pigeons and ducks which gave a 'morning chorus' around 6am. The ducks in particular were tame and would eat out of your hand. They soon seemed to work out which people were going to feed them.

Our apologies to members for not having a meeting at Warp One. We did consider it, but unfortunately Janet developed a bad cold on the way down to the con, felt lousy all weekend, had to take the next week off work and is still coughing two weeks later.

Sheila, having coughed non-stop for two days, went down on Monday, was totally unfit to drive home, and ended up calling on AA Relay. We have to thank Moira Russell for driving Valerie (whose cold developed on the Tuesday!) and Janet back to Glasgow, and Frances Abernethy and Carol Kean of the Chain Gang for 'babysitting' Sheila while she waited for the AA to arrive (neither felt up to

driving a strange car up the motorway - even if Sheila's owner-and-Janet-only insurance had allowed it). That was another story; picked up from Pontin's at 3, she waited at Lancaster till 5 for transport north. One driver took her to Glasgow then another took her on to Dundee, where she finally arrived at 9.30. The car followed separately, arriving on the Friday night - hence a slight delay in dealing with anything she was given at the con, because it was all left in the car.

Luckily, the home where Sheila's mother had spent the weekend was able to keep her for another two nights, which gave Sheila the chance to get over the worst of her cold. The car still hadn't arrived when it was time to pick her mother up, and Carol once again rose to the occasion in spite of having an appointment, and provided a taxi service - before going down with *her* cold on the Friday. Any time we can ever help you, girls! We owe you a lot.

BADGES/T-SHIRT TRANSFERS

Robert Gray who designed the IDIC Logo has offered to produce some badges for us. They are 2" x 3/4", the logo is printed on white card and then laminated with a safety pin as a fastener. They do look rather nice and the price is just 25p. We have looked at other kinds of badges and they are just too expensive to produce.

If you would like a badge then send your 25p, in postage stamps, to Janet. We will then send your badge out with the next newsletter. If you want it earlier you can send an SAE but you would need to put a piece of card in the envelope to protect the badge. Robert can only make a few badges at a time so depending on demand it may take us a few weeks to supply the badges.

We have also looked into producing T-shirts with the IDIC logo but we feel it would be too expensive and that there wouldn't be much demand for them with so many professional T-shirts being available. A member has offered to produce transfers which you can iron onto your own T-shirts. We are not sure yet how much these would cost but could you let us know if you would

be interested in buying transfers.

ZINES

Unfortunately it looks like we are going to have to cut down on our production of zines. We are reluctant to do this, especially as we are getting so many excellent submissions, but zine sales are dropping drastically. With over 1700 people at Warp One the most copies we sold of any one title was 25. One of the reasons zines are expensive is because there is only a small print run. If we cut the print run further the cost of printing each zine goes up, but if we put prices up to cover this zine sales would probably drop even further. It is a catch-22 situation.

We think the drop in zine sales is due to a number of factors: the number of professional novels being produced; the amount of other merchandise; the number of second-hand zines on the market and the recession which limits what fans have to spend.

For the moment we intend to stop publishing IDIC zines because we do not feel we can continue to tie up the club's money in unsold zines. We will continue to publish a few Scotpress zines for the moment as we have a market for these in the States - but we will be producing far fewer titles.

We need to rely on those of you who enjoy reading zines and writing stories to help us continue producing them. Most zine readers feel that zines are better reading than the novels because the fans are closer to the characters. If you do enjoy reading zines then tell your penfriends and try to persuade them to buy some. Send us in reviews of in-print zines - we and other publishers have to sell zines to get the money to print new ones. It would be a sad day if there were no more zines being printed.

FUTURE OF THE NEWSLETTER

We have a problem! We seem to be getting more and more articles for the newsletter which we are having to hold due to lack of space and at the same time we are having to slash the postbag because of lack of space.

We know that a lot of you enjoy the postbag but there are also a lot of members who do not read it. What would your reaction be if we withdrew the postbag from the newsletter and printed it as a separate supplement for which we would probably have to charge say £3 a year if it was about 50 pages? This would leave an extra 30 - 35 pages in the newsletter for articles etc.

The last thing we want to do is price the newsletter beyond members' ability to pay for it and maybe it is our fault for not being stronger editors. The trouble is that we receive such interesting material that we hate not being able to use it. If there is enough interest in producing the postbag supplement then we'll probably have a survey to see what the majority want.

If any of you have any better ideas on how to fit a gallon into a pint pot then please let us know. But do remember it has to be something easy to administrate.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Due to our printer, Frank, going on holiday at the end of July we have decided to put the next newsletter out early - it was either a case of doing this or putting it out 3 weeks late. We do have a lot of articles in hand at the moment so it is mainly news, reviews and postbag submissions we are looking for this time.

One thing we are looking for is volunteers to write profiles of the Deep Space Nine actors. If you are interested write to Sheila saying which actor(s) you would like to cover and she will assign them.

The closing date for the next newsletter is **June 30th (June 26th for anything sent to Sheila)**. Don't forget - send postbag submissions, articles and reviews to Sheila, discs and everything else to Janet. And PLEASE put your name on all submissions. We hope to post it out around **July 22nd**.

If you are using a computer we would be very grateful if you can send your submissions on disc. We can read BBC & Archimedes discs, MS DOS 3.5" (all formats -

but preferably 720K+), 5.25" (720K max. and preferably 720k), Atari ST discs, Amstrad WPC 3" discs. All files should be saved as ASCII text files, aligned left and preferably saved without line-end markers.

If you have an Amiga Simon Plumbe has offered to transfer your ASCII files onto a DOS disc for us, but he needs to receive your disc at least 7 days before our deadline. Send your disc to Simon Plumbe, 14 Rousdon Grove, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 5HN

Our thanks to Brenda Allan, Sheila Cornall, Stephen Daniels, Lisa Dearnley-Davison, Barbara Ellams, Peter Fryer, Richard Gibb, Lesley Hatch, Muriel Jarett, Antje Koenig, Nick Law, Debbie Lee, Anne McKay, Margaret Rainey, Carol Ranger, Gloria Rigg, G.A. Shaw, Theo Skeat, Jean Sloan, Karen Sparks, Alan Stephen, Dawn Tittley, J Turner and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

RAFFLE

The raffle winners are - Nancy MacKay, gold coloured model Enterprise pendant; Amanda Sinclair, a cassette of Brent Spiner's, *Ol Yellow Eyes is Back*; Tim Goodchild, a year's membership of IDIC.

We're having another raffle with this newsletter. The three prizes this time are two Star Trek pens with a 'floating' Enterprise in each - one is NCC 1701, the other NCC 1701-D; and a year's membership of IDIC. Please state any preference and put it with your name and address or membership number on each individual ticket. Tickets are £1 (or \$2) for the strip of 5 - please note that if you want £2's worth you can send both strips back (it is your name on the ticket that counts, not the number of the ticket.) Please send your tickets (and money, of course!) to Sheila or Janet by June 26th. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter.

Please do not send £1 coins (some of these have been lost in the post) and please do not send cheques or POs for less than £2; we will accept stamps (any combination of values

from 1p to £2).

USED STAMPS

If you are only sending used stamps please send them to Sheila as she is the one who takes them to Forfar. If you are enclosing them with other items you can send them to Janet or Valerie for Sheila to collect.

We would like to thank Monika Biering, Zander Bruce, Julia Budde, L. Butler, Sandy Cayless, Martina Copple, Christina Dauber, Jane Fenn, Sara Finch, Gerti Fleck, Mark French, Margie Ferguson, Gloria Fry, Margaret Gladwell, Kathleen Glancy, Ena Glogowska, Becky Gray, Katrina Heintz, Martin Helsdon, Adele Hilton, Cory King, Debbie Lee, Sara Jackson, Carol Kean, Benjamine Kessel, Antje Koenig, Ite Kopacz, Gary Leeke, Lloyd Lewis, Pippa Lightfoot, Lightspeed, Willie McGinn, Anne McKay, Stewart McMillan, Sonja Migalski, Jenny

Mills, Philip Morley, Barry O'Doherty, Ronald Reid, Gloria Rigg, Stephen Rothwell, Michael Sadler, Barbara Schmid, Baerbel Schmidt, Shirley Shatner, Jean Sloan, Ingrid Smith, Mike Smith, Amanda Spence, Rebecca Stacey, Martin Stahl, Doerthe Stauke, Ten Forward, Helen Thurlow, Jenny Turner, Joyce Urquhart, Linda Ware, Warp One and Warp One Attendees, Edward Woo, Linda Wood, USS Tianamen (Kirkcaldy) and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten or who didn't give their name who has donated money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at Contagion. If you have any second-hand ST items you want to donate to the Guide Dogs then just bring them along to our table in the dealer's room.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 16/5/93

GUIDE DOGS - UPDATE



Janet, Lindsay, Sheila, Sadie, Valerie

First the bad news. Unfortunately, Squire has been rejected - he must have been living

up to his namesake Trelaine! (Actually, he was rather too nervous.) When Ann Scroggie

of the GDA told Sheila, she offered to go through the list of dogs-going-into-training that hadn't been sponsored to pick a nice one for us, and we agreed - we don't see the dogs when we choose one, we simply get a list of name-sex-breed-and-colour to choose from, and often all the dogs on the list are yellow labradors or labrador crosses anyway. As most of you know, Sadie was actually bred by one of our members, which is why we chose her. (For new members, Sadie is the third of Joyce's Shepherds to go to Forfar, and a fourth one is in England.)

All three of us went to Forfar on the 3rd of April and met Sadie and Lindsay, our 'new' fourth dog. (Lindsay was very 'bouncy' until told to sit for her photo, when she sat beautifully - 'Misbehave? Me??' Sadie was quieter, and spent the photo session leaning on Valerie.) Sheila, of course, goes up and down to Forfar relatively frequently, and Valerie has been there a couple of times, but this was Janet's first visit - it's not particularly easy for her to get to Dundee for a weekend.

Another £35.93 has been added to our accumulator card at Forfar - a little of it from a meeting of URS Discovery in Dundee, but most of it collected at the April Away Team meeting (thanks, Lesley!)

Re our mention last time of the extra £500 to sponsor a dog through its working

life, a couple of people have asked who would normally pay that. The answer is, it comes out of general GDA funds, which come from a number of sources. The Association has staff who do a lot of fund raising; there are shops - we get a lot of our Christmas cards from the GDA catalogue; a lot of organisations donate small amounts - eg, on at least one occasion when Sheila was at Forfar there was a group of Brownies there handing over a cheque for somewhere in the region of £100. They have money invested, and the income from that helps with general expenses. A lot of people who don't donate anything else hand in stamps - the income from that also goes into general funds.

Not many people gave an opinion on whether we should go for £2500 next time, but of those who did, the general consensus seems to be that we'd be as well to settle for £2000 and put the extra £500 towards the next dog. Even the staff at Forfar felt we'd be better to do that because of the way we raise the money. Different if we raised it at one big 'do' specifically aimed at a donation to the GDA.

Venus and Aero have both settled with their blind owners and are working well - that's as much as Ann is allowed to tell us, but it's nice to know. According to Joyce, Jade is also doing well.

☆☆☆☆



LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

STAR TREK
THE NEXT GENERATION



July) through February with only two days off for Christmas. They will then get a couple of months break before starting filming Star Trek VII. At Warp One Marina said they would be filming the same number of episodes but in a shorter time.

In Live at Five 28/4/93, Patrick Stewart said that he has signed for the 7th season.

Season Seven will start filming early this year. They will film from June (instead of

As stated in the last newsletter Sky One have 4th, 5th and 6th season of TNG and they started screening it on May 3rd. They are showing it five nights a week so they should

get through the 77 episodes in 16 weeks.

We are assured that the BBC also have these seasons of TNG and will probably start showing them about the middle of next year.

Edward Woo received the following letter from Gillian Deering, BBC Programme Acquisition, 21 April 1993

"Re Star Trek: The Next Generation

I'm sorry, I'm really not sure when transmissions will resume. I believe the series is on exclusive on Sky for the near future.

Re Star Trek: Deep Space Nine
We will be acquiring this series."

ST:TNG - 6TH SEASON

Star Trek: The Next Generation
Season 6 Broadcast Schedule.
Compiled By Edwin Yau.

Ep. = Episode number.

PC = Paramount Code.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

R = A Repeat.

Ep.	PC	Date	Title
142	242	20/02/93	The Birthright, Part 1
143	243	27/02/93	The Birthright, Part 2
144	244	20/03/93	Starship Mine
145	245	03/04/93	Lessons
146	246	24/04/93	The Chase
147	247	01/05/93	Frame Of Mind
148	248	08/05/93	Suspensions
149	249	15/05/93	Rightful Heir
150	250	29/05/93	Second Chances
151	251	05/06/93	Timescape
152	252	19/06/93	Descent

142. "The Birthright, Part 1": Data 'dreams' and meets his father, and Worf visits the DS9 station and is told that his father is still alive at a Romulan prison camp, but finds that the Klingons there do not want to leave.

143. "The Birthright, Part 2": Worf is trapped at the Romulan prison camp full of peaceful Klingons and Romulans. He risks his life to show the younger Klingons their lost heritage and honour and ends up facing a

firing squad!

144. "Starship Mine": During a ship-wide evacuation when the Enterprise is bombarded by lethal rays, alien thieves target the Enterprise leaving Picard to stop their plan and save the Enterprise from destruction.

145. "Lessons": Picard becomes romantically involved with one of his crewmembers, Commander Darren, a stellar cartographer & pianist. But, when a raging firestorm threatens hundreds of lives, fate forces him to choose between love, death & duty.

146. "The Chase": Directed by Jonathan Frakes, this episode will feature many alien races - Klingons, Romulans, Cardassians and others, and concerns Picard's archaeologist teacher trying to convince him to give up Starfleet to go off on a very important dig with him to solve a 4 billion year old genetic puzzle, which will partially answer the question of why most aliens look the same except for their skin colour and forehead!

147. "Frame Of Mind": Riker plays a man in a insane asylum in Beverly's theatrical group and soon finds himself in an alien mental hospital with little memory of the past!

148. "Suspensions": Beverly is suddenly accused of several murders, and when she attempts to clear her name and investigate, a pioneering Ferneg scientist dies and she's the only one who could have done it! Whoopi Goldberg returns after a long absence.

149. "Rightful Heir": Worf goes to a Klingon spiritual world to seek some answers and finds that the Klingon deity Kaylis seems to have returned. Gowron returns once more.

150. "Second Chances": Directed by LeVar Burton, the Riker/Troi romance is finally dealt with. Guest starring Mae Jemison, who in real life was the first Afro-American woman in space, holds a degree in chemical engineering, speaks Swahili, Japanese, Russian and is an M.D.! (*An Away Team to a distant planet discovers... a second Riker!* - info Margaret Rainey from CompuServe)

151. "Timescape": A time travel story. An away team returns from a mission in a runabout to find the Enterprise frozen in time and about to be destroyed. (Directed by Adam Nimoy. Guest stars Patricia Tallman who played a terrorist in *Starship Mine*. - info Margaret Rainey from CompuServe)

152. "Descent": The season 6 finale cliffhanger will be a Borg story. Jonathan Del Arco who played Hugh in "I, Borg" has stated that he has been in discussion with the producers about appearing in the season's finale, and possibly in the first episode of season seven. Lore is said to return and Data will end up playing poker with Einstein. Isaac Newton and Stephen Hawking (played by himself).

Other News:-

1) The big news is that there will be a seventh (and final) TNG season. Patrick Stewart has signed. Gates McFadden and Brent Spiner (who doesn't like putting on the Data make-up every morning) definitely haven't, with Gates saying on TV that she wouldn't do a season 7. Jonathan Frakes and Marina Sirtis have publicly said that they would sign up.

2) The secret of Picard's relationship with Guinan will be revealed before the end of the sixth season.

3) There may be a few episodes in season 7 with Wes coming back to the Enterprise for a "spring break".

4) They are looking for scripts to bring back Barclay, Lwaxana, Lore, and Q, but have apparently given up hope on bringing back Sela. However, Denise Crosby will be seen in three episodes as a number of different characters.

5) They are thinking about a love interest between Bev and Picard, and Geordi may get married.

6) Michael Dorn will play another character without the Worf make-up.

7) We are supposed to see a bathroom on the "Big E" by the end of season six.

8) Possible future guest stars are Robin

Williams, John Goodman, and Elliott Gould.

9) Starlight Effects (SFX) are working on a model of the 'Calypso', the Captain's Yacht.

10) The alien bugs from "Conspiracy" may be back for season 7.

STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE

SKY ONE

In Live at Five 28/4/93 Patrick Stewart said that DS9 has been picked up for its second season season.

DS9 will not now be shown on Sky One until at least September. The scheduling change is understood to have occurred once CIC Video lodged an objection having got wind of Sky proposing to transmit episodes ahead of their planned video releases. (info TV Zone 42)

Star Trek:Deep Space Nine.
Season 1 Broadcast Schedule.
Compiled By Edwin Yau.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

DATE EPISODE TITLE

020/02/93	409.	The Passenger
13/03/93	410.	Move Along Home
20/03/93	411.	The Nagus
17/04/93	412.	Vortex
24/04/93	413.	Battle Lines
01/05/93	414.	Storyteller
08/05/93	415.	Progress
15/05/93	416.	If Wishes Were Horses
22/05/93	417.	The Forsaken
29/05/93	418.	Dramatis Personae
12/06/93	419.	Duet
19/06/93	420.	Hands of the Prophets

A Short Episode Synopsis:-

409. "The Passenger": A female security officer arrives on DS9 in search of a renegade scientist.

410. "Move Along Home": Quark is forced by aliens to play a game which sends crew members of DS9 to a strange world where they become the playing pieces in a labyrinth.

411. "The Nagus": Quark finds himself the new leader of the Ferengi financial empire, and discovers that he is very popular... to the point of being the target for death.

412. "Vortex": An alien criminal from the other side of the wormhole tells Odo that he can put him in contact with others like himself, and Odo decides to go in search of his kind.

413. "Battle Lines": A terrorist story in which Sisko, Kira, Dr. Bashir and Kai Opaka head for the Gamma Quadrant and find themselves stranded on a war-torn world where it is impossible for the combatants to die.

414. "Storyteller": O'Brien ends up as the spiritual leader of a Bajoran village and finds himself the only one who can save them from a destructive energy force.

415. "Progress": Takes place on Bajor where a stubborn old Bajoran farmer forces Kira to take a good look at how much she's really changed since her alliance with the Federation.

416. "If Wishes Were Horses": The imaginations of the crew suddenly go out of control and becomes real. It will be revealed that Odo doesn't have a sense of smell.

417. "The Forsaken": Lwaxana Troi drops by for a visit and takes an interest in Odo.

418. "Dramatis Personae": Plot unknown.

419. "Duet": Plot unknown.

420. "Hands of the Prophets": The final episode will not be a cliff hanger. It involves a Bajoran religious leader objecting to Keiko teaching science in her class and wanting Bajoran children to learn about Bajoran religion instead.

Whoopi Goldberg is said to be appearing in an episode. So will Lwaxana Troi, who will fall in love with Odo.

STAR TREK VII

ST VII is to be the first TNG film but it may guest star William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy. The script is being written by Ron Moore and Brannon Braga. It is due to start filming next April/May and be released Christmas '94.

TV Zone 42 reports that a second TNG film is being written by Maurice Hurley.

STAR TREK on BBC/ITV

Star Trek screening dates and ratings - the figures are taken from Broadcast. Last figure is the position in the Top Ten Acquisitions.

Ep.	Title	Date	Viewers Shown (millions)
29	Operation Annihilate	17/3/93	4.07 6
29	Operation Annihilate	17/3/93	4.07 6
34	Amok Time	24/3/93	4.15 7
33	Who Mourns for Adonais	31/3/93	
37	The Changeling	7/4/93	4.24 8
39	Mirror, Mirror	14/4/93	
38	The Apple	21/4/93	
35	Doomsday Machine	28/4/93	
30	Catspaw	5/5/93	
41	I, Mudd	12/5/93	

(info Barbara Ellams)

MISC

• "Genius in Star Trek" Daily Express 3/4 93 "Star Struck" New Scientist 10/4/93

This reports that paralysed genius Stephen Hawking is to appear as himself in an episode of TNG. Stephen asked to appear in the show when he visited the studio. He was in Hollywood to help launch the video of the Steven Spielberg film of his book, A Brief History of Time.

• Showbiz Today Broadcast CNN 13/4/93
ST:TNG will feature in an episode Mae Jemison, a NASA mission specialist who spent 8 days on the space shuttle Endeavour

orbiting the Earth. She will play Lt. Palmer. Mae says she was encouraged into science as a youngster by seeing Lt. Uhura on the original show.

Dr. Stephen Hawking, the world renowned physicist who suffers from Lou Gehric's disease, was in LA promoting the film based on his book "A Brief History of Time" and he expressed an interest in appearing in ST:TNG. Rick Berman hurriedly wrote a scene for Dr. Hawking; the scene involves Data going into the Holodeck to play poker with Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein and Dr. Stephen Hawking.

• Simon & Schuster (the biggest publishing house in the U.S.) are changing their name to Paramount Publishing, although the UK imprint will keep the old name. This is to reflect their diversification into other areas, including the entertainment industry. Info

Writer's News, April 1993.

• **"A Trekker's Guide to the Galaxy" TV Guide March 13th, 1993.**

Beginning March 8th, "Inside Trek", a syndicated, weekly newspaper column, will add to the TV series: the six movies, the more than 100 novels, the 500 fanzines, and the 3000 Trekker conventions a year, all inspired by the original TV show. The column will feature interviews with the stars, trivia, plus plotlines of current episodes of ST:TNG and DS9. So far several newspapers have committed to the column, which is produced by The New York Times Syndicate. The Times, however, will not carry it.

• There's a pub in Birmingham called Hill Street Q's and it has a Mr. Q's lounge. - info Lesley Hatch.

☆☆☆☆



Star Trek IN THE NEWS



compiled by Janet Quarton

The purpose of this column is to let you know which magazines to look out for as well as letting you know some of what has been printed in the papers. Most magazines are available from the book shops in the info sheets and you can often get back issues of newspapers if you write to the publisher.

• **STARLOG 190 May 1993.** Includes articles on Raver, Walter Koenig's Comic Creation; Daniel Davis, Moriarty in TNG; Armin Shimerman, Quark in DS9 plus various Ferengi in TNG; Malachi Throne, Commodore Mendez in Menagerie and Pardek in the TNG episode Unification

• **TV ZONE 41 April 1993.** Includes interviews with Barbara March who played Lursa, one of the two sisters from the Klingon family of Duras and Cliff Bole, who directed Unification Part II.

• **TV ZONE 42 May 1993.** Includes an

interview with TNG director Robert Wiemer about the filming of Lessons and a DS9 episode guide 1-9.

• **STAR TREK POSTER BOOKS**

Issue 41 - Article on First Contact plus episode guides to Reunion and Future Imperfect.

Issue 42 - Article on Advanced Civilisations plus episode guides to Final Mission and The Loss.

Issue 43 - Article on Spaceborne Lifeforms plus episode guides to Data's Day and The Wounded.

Issue 44 - Article on Transporter Technology plus episode guides to Devil's Due and Clues.

• **STARBURST 175 March 1993.**

Includes an interview with Harman Zimmerman, production designer, on designing DS9.

• **STARBURST 176** April 1993.

Includes an interview with Colm Meany about his move to DS9, an interview with Tony Toddy who played Worf's brother, Kurn, in Sins of the Father, and a review of DS9 by John Peel who thinks DS9 is the best 'Trek' yet.

• **STARBURST SPECIAL #15 - Monster Special.** Includes a two page article on Monsters from Star Trek.

• **ST THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB 90** March/April 1993. Articles on The Making of Relics; Recreating the Classic Enterprise Bridge; Discovering the Dyson Sphere; Welcome to DS9 Part 2; Astronaut and Star Trek fan, Mario Runco - when he was on the Atlantis they got a wake up call from Patrick Stewart. On his mission on the Endeavour, Mario took with a small pewter replica of the Enterprise.

• **ST: THE NEXT GENERATION 23** Articles Robert Lederman, director of I, Borg; Ron Jarvis & Philip A. Scorza, the writers of Disaster; Shari Googhartz, the writer of The Most Toys; Timothy Bond, the director of The Most Toys; Lee Sheldon, the writer of Remember Me; Marc Scott Zicree, who pitched the story for First Contact; plus mission reports of the 5th & 6th season episodes; Time's Arrow I & II, Realm of Fear, Man of the People, Relics, Schisms and True Q.

• **ST DEEP SPACE NINE 2** (Starlog) Articles on Rick Berman, co-creator of DS9; Avery Brooks, Commander Sisko; Peter Allan Fields, co-producer and writer on DS9; Nana Visitor, Major Kira Nerys; Armin Shimerman, Quark; Terry Farrell, Dax; and Siddiq El Fadil, Dr. Julian Bashir.

• **"An Unreliable Third Parent"** Financial Times 22nd March, 1993

In his column Michael Prowse reports on an essay in which Professor John Condray of Cornell University argues that dross on the box is stunting the development of American children. The Professor mentions Star Trek - the original series, TNG and DS9: "Yet his criticisms do not apply to all commercially successful programming. The producers of

the popular series Star Trek, to take one example, appear quite responsible... Deep Space Nine is not exactly great art. As in previous incarnations of Star Trek, each episode includes plenty of sanitised violence. But by reserving the best roles for minorities and women, and, and by spending as much time on social problems as on warfare, it at least sends some useful signals to children. Commander Sisko could become quite an important role model for young black boys."

• **The Law of the Federation: Images of Law, Lawyers, and the Legal System in ST:TNG**, by Paul Joseph and Sharon Carton of Ft. Lauderdale's Nova University appears in the Winter 1993 issue of The University of Toledo Law Review. (Info Science Fiction Chronicle April 1993)

• **"Star Trek Captains squabble"** Daily Mail 30th April, 1993

An article reporting that William Shatner refuses to take second billing to Patrick Stewart as a guest in Star Trek VII. *[Janet: Richard Arnold assures us that there is no truth in this article. The script for the film is still being written and no one has been signed up yet.]*

• **"Desperadoes on the Starboard Side"**

Independent.

Some bright spark decided to do an article about American Star Trek fans taping TNG and DS9 off the satellite uplink in America and sending them to Britain. CIC say they don't condone this and if money is changing hands it is copyright infringement and the penalty could be up to £20,000.

• **"Wait for it Trekkies"** Satellite Guide May, 1993. Article saying DS9 will start on Sky One later in the year.

• **"To Boldly Show... What No Brit Has Seen Before"** TV and Satellite Week 8-14 May 1993 Article about the screening of TNG series 4,5 & 6 on Sky One.

• **"Star Base One - Interested in a trip aboard the good ship 'Enterprise'?"** Comic Buyers Guide #1014 April 23 1993. Article about a Virtual Reality interactive game in which 50 people take part. Paramount Pictures have licensed Spectrum HoloByte

Inc. and Edison Brothers Stores Inc. for developments of Star Base One, to be modelled on TNG. Tentative plans call for as many as 50 Star Base facilities, plus some smaller locations to be called Star Posts.

It works like this: There'll be up to 50 participants. Each will be assigned a role - from commanding the Enterprise to being a combat team member to piloting a shuttlecraft. The Enterprise will be launched on a dangerous mission - one example offered was to rescue the crew of a crippled space station under attack by a hostile alien force. As the mission is directed from the Enterprise bridge, the space station crew member would be picked up by the shuttle crews. And the battle commanders would then attack the alien base.

The mission will last about an hour. And to experience what is called the "full immersion" of the adventure, each user must first don a bulky helmet which will offer pictures and sound.

- "Klingon lingo all the rage" Daily Mirror

10/4,93

"Klingon? It'll Never Catch On" The People 18/4/93

These articles reports that universities in American are now teaching Klingon.

- "Movie festival is the final frontier"

All six Star Trek films are being screened at Birmingham's Festival of Films. I, II & III on the Saturday and IV, V & VI on the Sunday. Hungry Trekkers will be able to sample some space cooking in the arts centre restaurant. Dishes will include William Shatner green-noodle casserole and Sulu's lemon chicken.

- "Day Souness Boldly Sent Me Into Orbit"

News of the World 9/12/93.

Article about Graeme Souness saying he was Marina Sirtis' first boyfriend.

- "And a trek to that Final Frontier" The Herald 10/5/93. A rather nice article about the Away Team local group meeting at the Glasgow Central Hotel.

☆☆☆☆



Cast & Crew NEWS



- Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes, Brent Spiner, Gates McFadden and Colm Meaney have been touring with the play Every Good Boy Deserves Favor. This play is done in conjunction with a symphony orchestra and has received rave reviews where ever it has played.

- Patrick Stewart has signed his contract for TNG's 7th season. He will not be participating in the "Annie" movie shooting this hiatus. (Info IAAPS)

At the end of April, beginning of May Patrick was in Britain doing publicity for Sky. He appeared on Live at Five - Sky News on April 28th, GMTV on April 29th and also Radio One.

- Colm Meaney was not in several episodes of DS9 because he was in Ireland making a movie. (info STW)

- George Takei would like to thank everyone who has written to him and who has sent him birthday cards. He is sorry he can't acknowledge them all, but he does appreciate the kind thoughts and generosity of all those who write.

- William Shatner TekWorld books are already the basis of a Marvel Comic series. Now, Universal TV and Canada's Atlantis Ltd. are teaming for the new TV project based on the property. They're not quite sure just what it'll be, thought.

The primary options: A two-hour TV movie pilot followed either by a network series or, like The Next Generation, a first-run syndicated show. In either case, Shatner would not star as Jake Cardigan, but would direct the pilot (to be shot in Toronto this summer) and possibly make sporadic appearances (in another role), while

occasionally directing later episodes.

And the third option? A series of TV movies à la Raymond Burr's Perry Mason,

which *might* star Shatner as Cardigan. Info Starlog 190.

☆☆☆☆



MERCHANDISE



BOOK UPDATE (TITAN) (unless indicated)
The dates are for Titan releases, are taken from TV Zone 42 and the list is subject to change.

May 20th (TNG 26)

THE ROMULAN PRIZE by Simon Hawke. The Romulans plan to claim Hermeticus 2, a planet with a deadly secret. Captain Picard and the Enterprise must stop them.
(DS9 2)

THE SIEGE by Peter David Pocket Books. When DS9 is forced to curtail entry to the wormhole due to increased graviton emissions, an air of biting tension settles over the station. A murder is committed... and then further ones. In order to save the station and stop the killing, Odo must try to destroy a powerful assassin who is the only link to his mysterious past.

June 24th (ST 60)

WINDOWS ON A LOST WORLD by V.E. Mitchell. While exploring the ruins of an ancient civilization on Careta TV Kirk, Chekov and two security guards disappear. They find themselves trapped in a strange alien environment in danger of losing both their sanity... and their lives.
(Giant novel)

IMZADI by Peter David. Pocket Books. During delicate negotiations with an aggressive race Deanna Troi mysteriously falls ill... and dies. But her death is only the beginning of the adventure for Riker - an adventure that will take him across time, pit him against one of his closest friends, and force him to choose between Starfleet's strictest rule and the one he calls Imzadi.

July 15th (ST)

THE GALACTIC WHIRLPOOL by David Gerrold

Aug 19th (ST61)

FROM THE DEPTHS by Victor Milan

Aug 26th (Graphic novel)

WHO KILLED CAPTAIN KIRK?

Sep 16th

STAR TREK LIVES by J Lichtenburg, S Marshak and J Winston.

Sep 23rd (TNG 27)

GUISES OF THE MIND by Rebecca Neason.

Oct 20th (ST 62)

THE GREAT STARSHIP RACE by Diana Carey

Nov 15th (ST)

THE PRICE OF THE PHOENIX by Sondra Marshak & Myrna Culbreath

Dec 12th (TNG 28)

HERE THERE BE DRAGONS by John Peel

The following list of new ST books comes from G.A. Shaw. He didn't give his source.

Aug DS9 3 - The Bloodletters

ST Hardcover - Shadows on the Sun

TNG Starfleet Academy 1 (Worf's First Adventure)

Oct TNG Starfleet Academy 2

Nov DS9 4 - Valhalla

Dec TNG Starfleet Academy 3

• VIDEO UPDATE - ST:TNG & DS9

This list is taken from TV Zone 44 and is subject to change.

April/May - TNG (6th Season)

Time's Arrow, Pt. II/ Realm of Fear (64)

Man of the People/Relics (65)

Schisms/True Q (66)

Rascals/A Fistful of Datas (67)

June 7th ST:DS9 - Emissary

July 5th - ST:DS9

Past Prologue/ A Man Alone (3/4)

Babel/Captive Pursuit (5/6)

August ST:TNG - 2 releases (6th Season)

The Quality of Life/Chain of Command, pt I

Chain of Command, pt II/Ship in a Bottle

ST:DS9 - 4 episodes

Q-Less/ Dax

The Passenger/ Move Along Home

• Franklin Mint have brought out a pewter replica of the USS Enterprise 1701 D. It is hand finished, richly detailed and accented with 22-carat gold and blazing red crystal cabochons. Price £195 - payable in 10 monthly instalments of £19.50. Franklin Mint, 138 Bromley Road, London SE6 1BP.

• Franklin Mint have also brought out an original hand-painted sculpture from City on the Edge of Forever. The moment frozen forever in time, as Dr. McCoy leaps through the Guardian of Forever, and into Earth's past. Precisely re-created in fine pewter and Tesari porcelain, an artist's blend of powdered porcelain and resins which is capable of holding the most minute detail, every feature of the towering ruins, the crew's faces and uniforms, is authentically sculptured and meticulously painted by hand. Price £145 - payable in 10 monthly instalments of £14.50. Franklin Mint, 138 Bromley Road, London SE6 1BP.

• The Hamilton Collection have brought out a new set of plates to commemorate TNG's 5th Anniversary. The first we have seen advertised is Picard. It is 8 1/4" in diameter and production is limited to 28 firing days.

• Playmates are bringing out two new sets of numbered collectors action figures, another one of the next Gen Crew and the other of DS9. There are ten in each set.

• Tip from Chris Coxon

Lay in stocks of earlier DS9 logo'd items - mugs & T-shirts - these will rapidly become more scarce than the new revised-non italic DS9 logo and script, as production of them will be limited to the initial runs. Currently as these are 'not right' they are cheaper than the correct ones that have superseded them -

don't say I didn't tell you!

• Final Frontier mag in their May edition advertise in addition to the phaser & communicator - a tricorder - working lights and sound effects (sampled), a 'transporter activity center', a Romulan Next gen Cruiser, Enterprise bridge set, Klingon Cruiser, Next Gen Enterprise shuttle. These are expected out around June 93 if not before. - info Chris Coxon.

• TNG Videos 61-63 contain an advertising booklet offering Star Trek Merchandise from Absolute Field Marketing Ltd. The merchandise offered includes all the ST videos so far released, T-shirts, badges, poster, limited edition plaque of Kirk and limited edition STVI etched laser disc.

• **HARDWARE NEWS** by Stephen Shaw

In a model shop in Manchester (Beatties - several branches around) I was a little surprised to find, amidst a wide range of Star Trek models, a FUNCTIONAL Enterprise.

In case I have not made that too clear, I don't mean one with flashing lights. This one has a working IMPULSE ENGINE SYSTEM

Unfortunately, I live closer than 8 miles to an airport so I can't try it out (there are other problems such as size of garden and funding!) but this looked really interesting for anyone out in the country.

I have not worked out how the model is stabilised in flight - I can't help but feel that that would be a problem, as the Starship design was NOT meant to be flown in atmosphere. Where would the centre of gravity be, and how do they make the rockets act through it???

The model is intended to be fitted with REAL ROCKET ENGINES, which are controlled by an electronic control pad. The system includes a parachute recover system! The box also indicated that there could be a Klingon warship available, but the shop did not have that.

The more rocket-like models sold in the same

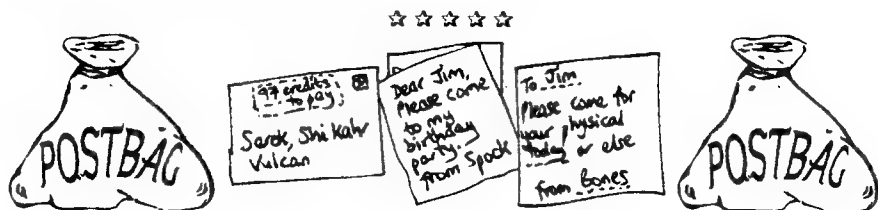
system were stated to reach a height of 800 to 1000 feet, so that seems to be a possible range for the model of the Enterprise. Straight up? Diagonal? Data not given, alas.

Imagine starting the countdown just before a police helicopter flew over... Does household insurance cover such things? Definitely not

one for a suburban area.

• Titan Books.

For a complete list of publications, T-shirts and badges, send large SAE to Titan Books, Mail Order, 19 Valentine Place, London SE1 8QH. Order Ref NG23. (Info Beverly Blackwell)



We welcome your letters of comment and discussion for this section on the understanding that they will be printed and may be edited for length or content at our discretion.

Some pointers: When referring to anything in a previous n/l make it clear what you are talking about for those who do not have that newsletter.

Keep your letters as short as possible - a maximum of 700-750 words or one of 'our' pages. If you find this impossible consider whether you should be writing an article instead. Longer letters will be edited for length. Where more than one person responds to a question with similar answers we may edit out some of these just so that we can get more in the newsletter.

We encourage active discussion, but please try to avoid negative and aggressive letters. If you make a request which requires members to write to you please give your address.

Keep letters on a separate sheet from other submissions and put 'for postbag'.

Martin Stahl - Marktheidenfeld, Germany

To Sheila Clark - Kronos is also the name of the Klingon homeworld. In his speech in TUC the Federation president speaks about "evacuating Kronos within the next 50 years" and in another scene somebody on the bridge says: "We can't allow that they (Kirk & McCoy) are taken to Kronos."

Now that we found a satisfactory explanation why Geordi and Ro don't fall through the floor in The Next Phase, here's another problem: Why don't they suffocate? We inhale oxygen, and in the cells of our body every oxygen atom reacts with two electrons and two protons (from glucose) to water. This reaction provides the cells with energy they need to function. How can the out-of-phase hydrogen atoms (proton + electron) from the bodies of Geordi and Ro react with the normal oxygen of the air around them? Nevertheless I like this episode.

Chris Coxon - Winchelsea, East Sussex

I was thoroughly absorbed by the to-ing and fro-ing in the readers' LOC pages but refuse to get embroiled in any of the more esoteric aspects being debated such as sexism in TNG, and several people who seem to be just itching for someone to call them a Gay or a Lesbian. Are those really the sort of arguments that should appear in the IDIC newsletter? Similarly, so many people seem to have seen DS9 - at least the pilot and many several episodes too. Only a tiny fraction of these people will have seen them legitimately at Cons; so the rest must be watching pirated TV copies converted from US NTSC - these are illegal and I don't think reference to them should be made so openly and so often in the Newsletter pages - guilt by implication!

Personally I liked DS9 and yes the version I saw was legit! but I thought the

music was poor, being reminiscent of the sombre music in *Raise the Titanic* when they find the wreck! I think we should just be thankful that our Trek ration has just been doubled and accept them for what they are - damned good science fiction entertainment.

[Janet: We do not dictate what members should, or should not, discuss in the Postbag, as long as it is related to Star Trek.]

As to DS9 videos - more people than you think see these at cons and local group meetings - and where do you think they get the videos from?

As to those who get videos from friends in the States, it is not strictly legal but it is a bit of a grey area - a bit like you watching a tape from British TV sent to you by a friend. These tapes don't necessarily have to be converted as there are quite a few video recorders around these days which play NTSC tapes. Patrick Stewart commented about the number of TNG videos circulating in Britain in an interview taped before the series was shown here. We're not quite so blatant - who is to say where people see the episodes, maybe they've had a holiday in the States? I think CIC realise that a lot of those people who go to so much trouble to see new episodes as soon as possible are also amongst the first to buy the CIC tapes when they become available.

What is illegal is selling copies of TV programmes on video. We received a letter years ago from the BBC saying that while you couldn't advertise the tapes for sale there was no law against asking for them - which is why we print wanted ads.]

Lynne Collinson - Southsea, Hants

Thank you for the consistently high standard newsletter. I find the postbag section stimulating, edifying and amusing - an infinite diversity of characters and opinions.

I am enjoying the book reviews particularly as at one time I bought the novels as soon as they appeared in *Forbidden Planet* and avidly read them regardless of quality. After all they were Trek, and in its absence from TV - the only fictional Trek one could get hold of apart from zines. However as more novels were published I had to be more choosy. Besides there was 'The Next Generation' on TV to feed my cravings!

Having book reviews in IDIC newsletters means I can decide exactly which to buy. I made the mistake of buying *Grounded* this month before reading any reviews. I had just finished reading *The Shell Game* which I'd recommend to everyone - it managed to keep me gripped whilst perched on the top bunk in the cabin of a cross channel ferry in non-too calm seas for three hours. Unfortunately I can't get past page 22 in *Grounded* particularly as I read the most devastating review of it in *TV Zone* and now two lukewarm ones in *n/1* 27. Back to zines I suppose - could anyone recommend any full length TNG zines to me? *[Sheila - Poppies by Gaile Wood; Scotpress]*

On the recurring subject of Riker and his persistent refusal to accept a captaincy. If he did accept a captaincy he'd be out of the show straight away and what right-minded actor is going to give up a money spinning part like that - Jonathan Frakes is no Denise Crosby - look how she regretted her decision to be written out.

As the homophobia debate is still raging I'll put in my two pennyworth. The *Outcast* did a good job in using an allegory - all the best drama employs it - it's considered unsubtle to approach a subject head on, much more interesting to use metaphor. Aren't Aesop's fables enduring because of this - using animals to represent human attributes? Furthermore a very good way of getting a message across is to disguise it as something else. *Star Trek* may be set in the enlightened future but it has to contend with present day attitudes and censorship. The *Outcast* very effectively deals with the topic, sensitive as it is, of 'gayness' without using gay people but through an alien culture which is androgynous. In this way it gets through the message of sexual tolerance without being overt. It's wonderful to watch a programme that does not under-estimate ones intelligence isn't it?

Edwin Yau, HOVE (actually!), Sussex.

To Simon Plumble and Brenda Allen - re: Troi being a Lt. Commander/not a bona fide Starfleet officer. I know she's a Lt. Cmdr, but isn't this an honorary rank for her, rather like sport personalities getting honorary

degrees while students have to actually do some work for theirs? I read somewhere that the Counsellors were an "off-branch" of Starfleet and had honorary ranks, but Doctors are part of Starfleet and do get military/command training like any other officers, so their rank is valid.

To Barry O'Doherty - Re: O'Brien being demoted in DS9 to ensign. I believe that it has something to do with being a noncommissioned officer (an NCO) in TNG. If I remember my pre-air corps training correctly, if you become a commissioned officer (as O'Brien did) your rank changes (so in DS9 he became an ensign). Can someone with military background/knowledge verify this?

To Chris Blenkarn - re: your Striving, Just Striving article in n/1 27. I believe that you may be partially correct about Kirk leaving the colonists alone as they weren't harming anyone, but when the spores "attacked" Spock he had to involve Starfleet, it was his duty.

In the case of the episodes "The Apple" and "Return Of The Archons" your argument is flawed; I believe Kirk had a right to interfere. The people were being essentially controlled. They could only make very, very limited decisions for themselves. Would you like to live in a place where you were basically told what to do for the rest of your life (and that includes what amounts to attempted murder in "The Apple") - I think not.

As to humankind facing challenges, controlling their destiny etc., it's still very true. People do thrive on challenges. With no challenge life would be very dull with no excitement. There wouldn't be such a thing as the Guinness Book of Records, Indycar/Formula One drivers, or the Olympic games without challenges. What about disabled people or the challenge of improving medical science? Even being "environmentally friendly" is a challenge of sorts. Ultimately, I for one believe that "challenge" is what drives the human race forward.

As a final word, women are just as

responsible as the men for messing up the Earth.

Judith Proctor - Wimborne, Dorset

To Martin Siah - I don't believe the Klingon/Human fusion theory for one simple reason. K'ehlyr, who is after all half Human and half Klingon does not look like an old series Klingon. I therefore subscribe to the two Klingon races theory, one having been dominant in the past, and the other now being in the ascendent. They need not even come from the same homeworld, the Federation contains many races besides Humans, why not the Klingon Empire?

BEAM ME UP SCOTTY. (Can't remember who started this discussion)

You forgot the animated episodes. I haven't seen all of them, but I've already found Kirk speaking the phrase, "Beam us up Scotty".

To Lorna Elliott - You are not alone, I like Star Trek V as well. There, I've said it, I LIKE STV. The plot has holes a mile wide, like how they crossed the Great Barrier, but I love the character interactions, especially the scene where Kirk says that he was lucky to get his brother back again. (Yes, I do think Kirk meant that Spock was his brother)

Janet Quarton - Lochgilphead, Argyll

To Carol Sterenberg - Regarding Kirk - no I don't find Kirk insincere. You may find him phoney but if we all liked the same kind of person life would be rather dreary. Although I like Picard he doesn't attract me whereas Kirk has been known to raise a few goosepimples. I find Kirk a far more charismatic person than Picard. Shatner has been quoted to say that he partially based Kirk on Alexander the Great, whereas Gene favoured Hornblower. After reading some books on Alexander I think there are quite a few similarities between his and Kirk's style of command. Given the choice I would serve under Kirk and I think he would inspire me to follow him to the end of the Universe. Picard may be an excellent commander but an Alexander he isn't.

Two things which have a lot to do with my attraction to the original Star Trek are

Kirk's love of the Enterprise and his close relationship with Spock and McCoy. In the original series the Enterprise is a character in her own right. The same can't be said of TNG. The characters are friends but none of them seem to have the depth of relationship which Kirk, Spock and McCoy had. Picard doesn't seem to have any strong feeling for the Enterprise. I think the Stargazer was his 'special' ship.

To Anne Peters, re Man Trap. I think you have to remember that there are no 'villains' as such in Star Trek. I think where the writers possibly failed is in showing the level of intelligence of the Salt creature. Was it an animal or was it an intelligent creature? I notice you call it a 'monster'. I still say that the creature had no reason to act out of a desperate need for survival. Crater had salt and if he had explained the full situation to Kirk I am sure Kirk would have supplied more salt. It was only when the creature killed Green that it was under threat. After that Kirk was just acting to protect his crew from an assailant which could assume any form. In his position I would like to know what you would have done.

In response to Chris Blenkarn's article, Striving, Just Striving - when discussing This Side of Paradise, how can you leave out the spores? The colonists were under the influence of the spores and once they threw off the influence, with Kirk's help, they were horrified by what they had become. You may like the idea of people living at one with nature and just taking enough to sustain themselves - and yes it seems like a nice idea - but people just aren't like that. Mankind seems to need to learn and to grow or 'he' just stagnates. Most animals just seem to live to reproduce - I feel that surely there has to be more to life than that.

Sheila Clark - Dundee

Re words with opposing meanings - buckle, clip, dust, fast, handicap, hold up, left, seeded, trip - among others. Just think about them!

To Ann Peters - Re the Salt Vampire. One could argue that the salt tablets were not giving it all the nutrients it actually needed,

that it was hungry for something it could only get from blood salts, but would a species alien to its planet provide this? Spock's blood evidently wouldn't, but although iron-based, Human blood surely would be just as alien to it.

To Stephen Shaw - I too hate the humiliation of one character in TV series - which is why I detest most situation 'comedy'. There's nothing funny in one character being set up to be laughed at.

To Karen Davies & Rebekah Owens - according to the Oxford Concise Dictionary, 'avatar' also means 'manifestation', and 'manifestation' means 'appearance' thus 'Silicon Avatar' could be translated as 'Silicon Manifestation' or, simplified, 'Crystal Entity'.

To Maria Nausch (& Gary Heron) - Re McCoy's father's age. I agree it was never stated how old he was when Leonard was born; but what I actually said was, I'd have been more convinced about McCoy's feelings of guilt if the father hadn't looked so old. It's difficult to say exactly what I mean without sounding callous, but how can anyone, even a doctor, feel guilt over the death of someone, even someone they love, who appears to be close to the average life expectancy if they know they have done everything they possibly can for them, subject to the medical technology available at the time? And even brilliant breakthroughs take several years to become readily available; the fact that a cure was *discovered* doesn't automatically mean it was instantly available for everyone who needed it.

To James Brand - If you think the novels manage to clear up inconsistencies and contradictions, you should also try some zines. Fan writers know the episodes and characters much better than most of the professional writers and mostly do a better job with inconsistencies.

Katrina Heintz - Bathgate

To Gary Heron - First, I apologise for the late reply to your question. I've been busy with rehearsals for a stage play and couldn't answer in time for N/L 27. I can't give you a straight reason why I like Shades

of Grey; I'm not sure myself. Maybe this will answer it; I like H/C stories and also it gave the female characters a story almost to themselves. Finally, with all the adverse comments on it I felt someone had to defend it. Sorry if this sounds confused, but it's the best I can do!

Bill Taylor - Kelty, Fife

Re women in positions of authority in Starfleet, especially Starship Captains.

The lack of women Starship Captains has aroused much emotional energy to judge from previous letters, that on the whole seem to imply a male conspiracy, including Gene Roddenberry, to enslave and degrade the female half of humanity. I believe Gene Roddenberry's vision of the future was the best of possible alternatives and one that, alas, will not come to pass. As Mr Spock would say, "Let us examine the facts logically", and we will come to an unexpected if distressing conclusion. In the 24th century there will be no women in any positions of authority, with the exception of non-Humans such as Vulcans or cross-species offspring like a female Mr. Spock.

Before any of you lady readers burst a blood-vessel, consider the following - in our century, as women gain their legitimate freedoms, ie independence, education, a career, etc, a pattern is emerging that time will reinforce. The more intelligent the woman, the smaller her family. Pregnancy is messy and birth painful, despite modern medicine. Would you become pregnant unless you really wanted to? Career-minded women, call them ambitious or forceful, the type like Shelby, who have the single-minded drive to reach the top of their field today and potential Starship Captains in the future, will not allow the distraction of children to interfere with that drive.

Of course, these criteria do not apply to docile, to less intelligent women, or to the male half of the population. This is a novel situation that did not exist in the past where all families tended to be large and women conditioned to be wives and mothers.

A knowledge of genetics reveals what

will happen; selective breeding of docile, stupid women. Evolution points to the more advanced and civilised the society, the more docile the women. Of course this will not show in a couple of generations, but over hundreds of years the outcome is clear. There are of course many minor factors that will influence this accidental experiment in eugenics but I despair for the future - as a mere male who doesn't appreciate bimbos of either sex. Perhaps intelligence in women is an evolutionary blind alley that is about to be terminated. Perhaps intelligence itself is a failed evolutionary experiment. If we continue degrading our planet, we won't reach the 24th century.

One of Star Trek's attractions is its optimistic vision of the future, however unlikely. Live long and prosper.

Stephen Wallwork - Rugby

To Ann Robertson - Re Picard and Data beaming down to Romulus (Unification) while the Klingon Bird of Prey was cloaked: here's my solution.

Remember the second season episode The Schizoid Man. The Away Team beamed down to Ira Graves' planet in what is called a neo-warp transport, enabling the ship to come out of warp just long enough to beam down and get back into warp speed. The Klingon ship decloaked just long enough for transport, like in the neo-warp transport.

To the supposed script for ST VII where Captain Kirk hands over command of the Enterprise to Picard - this is impossible because William Shatner wants nothing to do with The Next Generation; also the second plot, where Scotty makes a temporal rift to get back to his own time, then the Classic and TNG crews have to fix it before it is too late - isn't this a bit like STIV: The Voyage Home?

Ewan Chalmers - Elgin

To John Marshall - Re first contact with alien life forms, the novel 'Strangers from the Sky' contains a reference to a voyage to Alpha Centauri in 2048, which was the first contact.

To Keren Breen - Concerning Kirk's

first captaincy, the novel *Enterprise - The First Adventure* starts off with Kirk recuperating from injuries sustained while he commanded the *Lydia Sutherland*; however there are no more details given for this vessel.

To Martin Helsdon - The episode you're thinking of is *Deja Q*, when the *Enterprise* is attempting to change the course of Br'el IV's moon while 'protecting' Q from the Calamarain when he has lost his powers.

Alberto Gorin - Holland

To Tracey Saunders - When I read how you were attacked, and about rapers, I wouldn't, I can't, I don't know why some guy would do these terrible things. I just can't find words. I could never do anything like that. If a guy really loves a girl, and when you really, really are a gentleman, you get double portions of the love you need. I guess some female just met the wrong guy.

Steven Gibb - Glasgow

To Janet Quarton - I also am concerned that the producers seem to be neglecting TNG and directing all their attention to DS9; you just need to watch some recent episodes of both shows to see how much care and attention is being spent on DS9 compared to very little on TNG, and as a result the quality of some sixth season TNG has suffered. Unfortunately, this is the kind of scenario where people begin to take sides, and that may create yet another rift between fans. I think most of us want DS9 to work, but not at the expense of TNG.

Now for a couple of questions. Why do all the Borg look Human? If they conquer and assimilate new species, then we should expect to see some non-Human-like Borg. And what happened to Admiral Hansen from *The Best of Both Worlds*, did he survive the battle at Wolf 359?

As I stated before, I believe some sixth season episodes of TNG haven't measured up, but there have also been some impressive stories; these are my personal favourites so far. Relics is a brilliant episode, particularly if you also enjoy *Classic Trek: Ship in a Bottle* is well done (although slightly confusing!);

Aquiel is another interesting story.

Ronald Reid - Kilbirnie, Ayrshire

To Tracey Saunders - The difference between the Klingons shown in each of the series is that in *Classic Trek* they were 'Human fusion' Klingons so that the Klingon race could infiltrate Terran society without too much difficulty, while those portrayed in TNG are Imperial Klingons. Unlike the Terran race, which evolved from apes, the Klingon race evolved from dog-like creatures, hence the reason for the ridge on their foreheads.

To Maria Nausch & Martin Helsdon - The Klingon homeworld is called Kling or Klintzai in its native language. Kronos was the name of Chancellor Gorkon's ship in ST:VI.

Just a small test for other members - how many of you can answer these TNG questions.

- 1) Complete the following statement made by Lwaxana Troi. "I am the Daughter of the House, Holder of the Sacred Chalice of and Heir to the Holy Rings of"
- 2) Name the ship that first found Data.
- 3) Who was in charge of the team that put the *Enterprise* together?
- 4) Who is Deanna Troi's father?
- 5) Name four decorations on Data's record.
- 6) Rop'ngor is the Klingon version of which Human disease?
- 7) Riker called him 'the best barber in Starfleet.' What's his name?
- 8) What is Q's IQ?
- 9) What was Tub Man's real name?
- 10) Cite Robin Leiffer's Law 17 from *The Game*.

If anyone can answer all the above questions correctly and send me the answers (29 Herriot Ave, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire KA25 7HZ) I will present them with a copy of ST:TNG Technical Manual and blueprints to the *USS Enterprise NCC 1701*. The first correct letter I select on 1st July 1993 will be the winner. Depending on the response I may be willing to organise a larger quiz on behalf of IDIC. No entry fee on this occasion. If any other member would like to help

organise a quiz, proceeds to the Guide Dog Association, please get in touch with me.

Jenny Turner - Birmingham

I have now watched the first three seasons of TNG. I must admit that when I watched it on BBC 1 for the first time I wasn't very keen, but now that I am watching it on Sky I like it a lot better. Deanna Troi has lovely hair, and what a figure! Data fascinates me. Does he wear contact lenses? If so, they must be very irritating after a while. I LOVE Riker. WOW! I love him with his beard - much more mature. Wesley Crusher is a proper little know-it-all, isn't he! (Sorry.) Some of the shots of the Enterprise in orbit around the worlds are beautiful and would make a lovely poster. The Q episodes I don't like - I could THROTTLE him! In Who Watches the Watchers, I was a bit shocked when Picard said to the doctor why didn't she let him die - I know they have the Prime Directive, but it was an accident, after all. One question - how did Deanna get all that lovely hair under that wig in WWTW? Why did they take Tasha Yar out of it? She was one of the best in it, and poor old Data was devastated when she died! *[Sheila - Denise Crosby wanted out - she felt the character wasn't getting enough to do - so she was released from her contract.]*

All in all, I like it even if the actors do seem a bit wooden at times; also they don't seem to have the rapport the others had - perhaps I'm still biased; I don't know. I hope they bring Scotty and Spock into it more - perhaps meeting one another again? They left the ending to the book Relics open, so who knows?

William Marsh - Atherstone, Warwickshire

I'll start by putting right my mistake from the last newsletter - the address of the Star Trek shop in Blackpool is 332 Lytham Rd, South Shore, Blackpool, Lancs (phone 0253 48321).

To Lee Sansome - About people not getting involved at cons. A lot of people at cons, unless they are meeting penfriends or going with people from local get-togethers don't know anyone and therefore a lot of people can't get their own quiz team, etc,

going. The only other thing is to watch or go into a video room. If people like you, who obviously have many friends at cons, went up to people and asked them to join your quiz team, etc, then maybe you'd get people joining in more.

Another thing I find is that people of adult age - say 20 and above - will not like to talk to younger Trekkers of 14 - 18, and this puts a lot of new, younger Trekkers off going to cons as there are not many 18-and-unders there to talk to or go into quizzes with of enter the fancy dress with, and so on.

Did anyone see the SF film on BBC2 which was created by Gene Roddenberry, called Genesis? I thought it was very good. Does anyone know of other SF Gene has created?

SPOILER ALERT. THANK GOD there has finally been a TNG episode with some nice and good Romulans in. About time. I think Birthright I & II really shows some good Romulans, not to mention Klingons actually working on growing crops etc, instead of blowing things up for 'honour'. (Sorry, Gaile Wood!) Keep it up, Paramount!

Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh

A bout of flu made me miss the deadline for N/L 27, but clearly it was just as well or you'd have had an even worse editing job to do!

Briefly reverting to No. 26, I only want to say to Kay Stagg - indeed, I *wasn't* saying that I find every character in Star Trek except bits of Kirk and all of Chapel perfect. All of them have flaws, and just as well or they'd be crushing bores and I wouldn't like them at all. I would certainly have to agree that you can't possibly ignore Kirk, ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~hogs~~ ^{the} limelight plays too prominent a part for that. Seriously, warts (*figurative* warts!) and all, he is always an interesting character. I might add I come nearest to liking him in your stories, as you make him stay on his best behaviour.

On to N/L 27. Linda Wood, I will now never be able to watch young Sisko without expecting an overweight Mexican sidekick to

appear at his back. Spock, according to *some* people, does it septennially.

To Edward Woo - If it was my error in misnaming you, I apologise. As one who goes through life being called Catherine I know how it feels.

On the question of con locations - isn't it funny that SF fans from all over the world appear to be capable of getting to Scotland (the Worldcon is being held in Glasgow in 1995) and yet ST fans in England can't manage it.

Tom Mann (The Fat Ferenghi From The Final Frontier) - Dundee

Dear Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations, I write on behalf of The Association For The Abolition Of Abbreviations. It is with some distress that I note your publication appears to be spectacularly enamoured with the continued and unrestrained proliferation of inordinately obscure, although intellectually stimulating and occasionally provocative abbreviations. We at T.A.F.T.A.O.A. are agnst. abbrev. in toto. I am a membr. of IDIC and a TREK fan having 1st watched CT on TV in the 60's graduating thru the films ST:TMP to ST:V:ITUDC then ST:TNG until maturing with DS9 but I can't help but feel that your mag goes OTT in the abbrev. dept. Y/N? Its a wee bit confusing! e.g. in N/L 27 Nina Lynch wrote about CT, Edwin Yau mentioned TOS and Gaile Wood made comments re OT. Were they all talking about the same thing? i.e. the orig. ST TV series? Other writers in the N/L contributed UFP, CIC, STV, USA, NG, AC:DC, SF, Etc., Etc. Come on Ed I'd suggest it was all 1 big Con but your readers would want to know who the guest was. I know its a ? of space but surely the answer is The Final Frontier. If any 1 agrees with me send SAE to me ASAP here in the UK and we can discuss the prob., ok?

Bye now, Signed - TFFFTFF

John Stubleby - Boston

I'm glad that DS9 seems to have got off on the right foot, judging by the reactions of most people who have seen it and reviewed it in N/L 27. I have seen the first two episodes

and reviewed them, but the reviews weren't printed (grumble, groan, mumble..) and they looked good to me. *[Sheila - We decided not to print any actual reviews of DS9 episodes until more people had had a chance to see them - either at a con or on Sky.]*

I was, however, perturbed by the reprint of the Sky press release, in which they claimed to have 'exclusive British rights' to DS9 and the rights to brand new TNG. From this statement it seems that Sky will show new TNG soon. However, from reading the BBC letter to Alan Stephen reprinted in the same N/L, it seems that BSkyB "will not be able to show the subsequent seasons until we have broadcast them in due course".

Does this mean I have to get Sky? O.K., it's cheaper than buying videos (as Janet Quarton pointed out) but I can't afford either. Ho, hum, it's time to scrounge a seat at my friend's TV. Regularly! *[Janet: Sky started showing 4th season TNG on May 3rd. The BBC will be showing the remaining seasons, possibly starting next year.]*

Baerbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent

With the exception of Time's Arrow and Man of the People (I think they are the worst episodes I have ever seen in the series) I enjoy the sixth season very much. Recently I got quite a few new episodes and there were some of them that took my breath away. It is rare enough that I agree with Eddie Yau, but Face of the Enemy is absolutely brilliant! I think there was never a more impressive episode with Deanna in which she could not only show her empathic abilities but also her abilities as a psychologist. It was also a very nice surprise to get another story with people of Spock's underground movement. All my pen pals and also my fiance put this episode among their top five. I also did when Starlog asked their readers to send them a list of their five favourite episodes. SPOILER ALERT. My fiance only pointed out something to me that made me wonder. Deanna was disguised as a Romulan on a Romulan ship, but obviously she had no problems with the language at all. Does Deanna really speak Romulan perfectly, even without accent? Well, this logical flaw doesn't spoil the episode for me one bit.

To Pam Baddeley - When I first got Paramount's address about four years ago I immediately sent off letters to the actors and asked them for a signed photo. Most of them were very kind and sent me one. Some were quite fast, with others it took more than a year but I was grateful to get one. Now there are only Michael Dorn, LeVar Burton and Brent Spiner missing. I also tried in vain to get one from Majel Barrett. The letter came back saying that she is not at Paramount. I am now sending letters to the cast of DS9. Your letter encouraged me to try it again to get the three missing autographs. I hope I will succeed, because this is the only way I can see now to get them - I had an accident last year that left me at least temporarily disabled.

My latest DS9 episode is Dax, and I must say I am very impressed so far! Up to now there is no episode I don't consider good. (That wasn't the case with the early TNG ones.) At first I got the pilot and the next two episodes; at that point I only had problems with Dax and Dr Bashir. Concerning Dr Bashir, I really wondered how a man can be so intelligent concerning his profession and so incredibly stupid and immature concerning life experience; but starting with Babel his character became more believable and I even like him now. Dax even helped to ease my discomfort with the Trill concept, so that I don't resent Jadzia Dax any more for what she is. At least, I am trying not to!

Today (Apr 30) I got my first autographed photo from the DS9 cast, Rene Auberjonois. He wrote that he sends anybody a signed photo if they provide the proper sized envelope with the correct postage. The proper size of envelope would be one able to take a 8 x 10 photo; I put on it 3 29 cent stamps and also sent 3 IRCs. That seems to be enough. I would like to thank Mr Auberjonois very much for sending me the photo. This was really fast!

G.A Shaw - Manchester

To Nina Lynch - I for one like The Next Generation and hope Deep Space 9 holds up well; however that doesn't mean I like Classic

Trek any less. I grew up with the original crew and will always like it just as much, so no Vulcan neck pinches, please.

To Steven Daniels - This isn't factual, but I remember reading somewhere that Gene Roddenberry was going to call the Captain of the Enterprise James R Kirk, hence the initial on the tombstone.

To Ann Robertson - In Unification Picard and Data beamed down to Romulus whilst the Klingon ship was cloaked. How could they do it? Didn't they solve the problem in The Undiscovered Country with a prototype that engaged the Enterprise and Excelsior. I know it was destroyed but they still have the technology.

Philip Morley - Fleetwood

About a possible ST VII - I think it is just the newspapers who come up with the idea that 'Kirk hands the command of the Enterprise over to Picard', as they are always coming up with cheap articles, skitting Star Trek. It IS impossible for Kirk to have command over to Picard, as Picard is no more than 60, and Kirk retired more than 75 years before the NCC 1701-D (and TNG) was around.

To Baerbel Schmidt - I think Troi is beautiful, and you are perhaps right, I think I would find it difficult imagining her as a Security Officer, but what about Tasha Yar? I also found her quite attractive, but she was in a lot of action scenes; she was also Chief of Security. Speaking about Deanna, have the TNG writers decided to make her wear standard uniform in season 6, as in the episodes I have seen she is in blue standard uniform with Lt. Commander pips.

To Kevin Peters - I think Gene would have been proud of Star Trek: Deep Space 9. I have seen the first few episodes, and it is great. How can you criticise something just because it is new, and after its creator's death? [Janet: Sorry but I feel that I must say something here. Gene Roddenberry had nothing to do with Deep Space 9 - his only link with the series is that it is set in the Star Trek Universe. DS9 was created by Rick Berman and Michael Pillar.]

To Kevin Thomas - Your article on the Borg was excellent. Although, when is the USS Melbourne mentioned in *The Wounded*? I don't disagree with you, maybe a lot of the Starships that were crippled could be repaired, but are you sure you weren't mistaking the Melbourne with the Phoenix? One personal theory on the Borg's origin was that over 1000 years ago an advanced culture with the capabilities of space travel started to experiment with cybernetics because they had no weapons to use in armies to defend themselves. However, the creators made one mistake, they gave the devices a programme to have the will and determination to live (a bit like the Terminator in the Terminator films). Once the programmers realised the idea was a failure, they tried to deactivate the devices, but the devices fought back. Because they had no access to weapons, they couldn't conventionally kill the inhabitants of the planet - they had to 'assimilate' them. Once they had assimilated the entire population, they had large enough forces to invade other worlds - perhaps because the Borg feel any conscious being is a threat to them.

Gratiennne Vandekerckhove - Belgium

To Carol Sterenberg - I don't think you should expect William Shatner to act as Patrick Stewart does and vice versa. In my opinion, both of them have a way of acting which suits them personally, able to pass the character they portray to the viewer. Besides, what happens to the diversity in acting a role? How dull if every actor would perform his/her art in the same style.

To K'Tan Vestai Kuragan - I didn't think I skirted around the problem. Quite frankly, I don't think you'll find any parents taking their children on board with your view in mind. When survival is at stake, usually the children are the first to suffer as they are the least resilient.

May I say, Gloria, how much I love your T'Varon Chronicles.

Victoria Roberts - London

Just received my first N/L (27) and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Makes a refreshing change from biology textbooks (I'm currently studying for my final exams).

To Sheila Clark - I, like you, prefer Robin Curtis' Saavik. Whilst Kirsty Alley's performance *was* good, it was *too* Vulcan-like, and Saavik is not all Vulcan. Robin Curtis, I felt, gave the better performance. As Saavik is half Romulan, her emotional control wouldn't be as faultless as a full-blooded Vulcan's. so she would show *some* feeling. I felt that Kirsty Alley's performance lacked this aspect.

To Maria Nausch - I agree with you about strong female characters - in addition to K'ehlyr and Lwaxana Troi, what about Ro Laren and Kira Nerys? You don't get stronger than those two!

To Brenda Allen - I wondered was I the only one who had noticed the similarity between Kamala's (Perfect Mate) and Dax's spots! They *do* look remarkably similar.

To Lee Sansome - As I've not *seen* any DS9 episodes (I read Emissary), you're one up on me. Still, I would agree with your assessment of Kira, she is definitely one very sassy, awkward and assertive lady, and about time too! I was beginning to wonder if Ro was a minority.

Sue Bursztynski - Australia

It's a pleasure to receive IDIC newsletter - so thick and crammed with interesting information and chat and taking me an average of 1.5 hours to read! Thank you.

I'm intrigued by all this discussion of cons and central locations. Well, British fans, at least your country is a lot smaller than mine! If you're a schoolmarm, like me, you can only get to cons on the other side of the country by air and a weekend of fannish fun can end up costing \$\$\$... I last went to an interstate con in 1987. Can't afford it any more. *Sigh.* Still, there are some good cons locally. Because we're the other side of the world, we can usually only manage one or two overseas GoFs, so most of our cons are fannish-oriented - panels, costume parades, art shows and such. This is okay with me. I agree with the person in No. 27 who says we need to do things rather than just sit and watch.

To those who have trouble meeting people at cons - unless you're very shy, there are ways. I try to make a new friend at each. There are 'closed' groups, of course, but if one person won't talk to you, there are others who will. I generally admire a costume or badge or a fannish soft toy and ask the person about it - people do love to talk about their creations! If the person is new and knows nobody, I drag them off to dinner with my friends and me. If I know nobody at the con, myself, I make sure *I'm* part of a large group going to dinner together! Mealtimes are great for getting acquainted.

If you *are* terribly shy, there's always the huckster's room; everyone turns up there sooner or later and you can chat with the hucksters. Someone will probably join in and voila! an acquaintance. At your next con, you'll see them again. And now you have friends, please spare a thought for new fans and be kind!

Ann Peters - Kidderminster

Although I feel that DS9 is an excellent Trek-type SF series with good, varied stories and professional effects, for me it has failed miserably with most of the characters. After viewing half a dozen episodes, I like only O'Brien and Quark. I'd like to see the focus move away from command and concentrate on the little people because, from what I've seen so far, Colm Meaney and Armin Shimmerman have the character-acting ability to carry the series and those portraying people in command positions do not.

I loved the Tribble view of Humans in the cartoon in N/L 27. The major problem facing the world today is over-population by Humans, and most if not all other problems are a direct result of this, but sadly TNG has so far failed to come up with a 'moral message' to address it. Unfortunately I couldn't read the cartoon artist's name. (*Ed - Taruka Quauhtezcattl*)

To Peter Arnett - You seem to imply that a parkland nature reserve is an improvement on a desert, but what about all those plants and animals that have evolved to live in desert conditions? Are they to be

made extinct just because deserts don't happen to suit us Humans?

I'm sorry, but I fail to understand this constant carping by TOS fans that because they pay their con fees, they have a right to expect a video room showing TOS episodes. My favourite Trek is TNG, but when the series finally winds up and I have seen every episode, I will be only too happy for all video facilities to be turned over to whatever Trek form is new. TNG fans want to see TNG *because they have not seen them before*, not because they want to oust TOS fans and score some kind of moral victory over them.

Sara Lyford-Smith - Maidenhead

To Stewart McMillan - Have you seen/read the Starlog TNG Makeup FX Journal? It is by Michael Westmore and Joe Nazzaro and covers many areas of alien make-up, design, ideas from drawing board through to actuality, and interviews with people who have to wear this stuff. If you are interested in the makeup/design side of things then this is a magazine I'd recommend.

Regarding the holodeck - I seem to remember in the very first episode, where Riker meets Data, Data is in the holodeck and shows Riker around, explaining that they are near the 'outer wall' at some point, and in fact he bangs against it to show it out from the rest of the effects (I think the illusion on the wall ripples or some such). So my query is this... how come Picard never hits this wall when out riding his horse? Also are there 'privacy' laws governing entry in to the holodeck? I mean it's all very well to be indulging a fantasy, but you may not want just anyone to come walking in.

I'm dismayed to read that SKY have bought DS9 and the further series of TNG, as this will probably mean that I will have to lay down my objections and get the dreaded SKY installed; after all, it will be cheaper than buying all the videos.

Talking of videos, does anyone know if Quantum Leap is out on video?

With regard to pen pals, couldn't a member just hold a list of people seeking pen

pals, with details available for others in exchange for an SAE, and any details could only stay on the list for, say, three months, and are only replaced on the list by request?
[Janet: Personal ads are less work and we think they are more effective.]

Tricia Smith, Sara Price, Mr A Smith, Elaine Farrell

It has just been brought to our attention that several of your members have written deleterious remarks regarding certain occurrences at SOL III last May.

We were the attendees of the above-mentioned convention who have been accused of being a) public bawlers, b) demanding and obnoxious, c) the root vegetable element.

It would appear that we have been misquoted and accused of being troublemakers to the extent of mitigating a riot.

Our party were waiting outside the main hall for the start of a fifth season episode, along with several dozen others. We were then informed of yet another schedule change in favour of a repeat showing of ST:VI, the reason given being that some attendees were unable to get out of their beds in time for the morning showing. Then the committee member told us to stop blocking the corridor to the main hall (rightly termed the Crush Hall); when asked where should we move to as all the video rooms were full to capacity and the Ten Forward bar was closed, the dealers' room and Harry's were likewise overflowing, the aforementioned committee person's reaction was to become belligerent. This we feel was not the attitude that was required. When we voiced our grievances in respect of the convention, as requested by the committee, we were met with indifference. This did not go down favourably with the group. As we attempted to explain our views in a calm, rational and logical manner the committee member gave unsatisfactory explanations to the problems. was unsympathetic to what we were saying, and seemed to be totally oblivious of the scheduling.

The accusation that I, as the leading voice, was threatening, is ludicrous. I happen to be a 5 ft 4 inch female who was merely voicing what most were thinking.

Our discussion degenerated into an argument solely due to the hostile attitude and raised voice of the committee member.

In fact after the incident several fans not of our acquaintance congratulated us on verbalising the general feelings of the common or garden attendee.

As veteran con attendees we are fully aware and are sympathetic to the problems faced by the committee and the need to reschedule on occasion, but feel that the execution of this convention was amateurish in the extreme. This was reflected in the vote at general meeting.

We, having read the reports from SOL III, would like to point out that most of those who have taken the time to comment on others' behaviour and to pass judgement would do well to find out the facts and not rely on second or third hand Chinese whispers.

[Janet: I think it is time we wound up this discussion on Sol III. If there is anything else you feel you must say then send it in for the next newsletter. Then we'll call it a day.]

Jacqueline Y. Comben - Rhossili, Gower

Re: Sarek's death: Am I the only fan who breathed a sigh of relief when this was mentioned? My mother suffered from an incurable, debilitating and painful illness and I was very glad indeed when she died. I felt the same about Sarek's death and fail to understand how anyone can want someone to suffer.

As far as Spock's situation was concerned, since his stepmother made it clear that he was not welcome in her home, it is hardly surprising that he kept away. I ground my teeth virtually every time the woman opened her mouth. You do not interfere in relations between your husband or wife and his/her offspring if you actually care a jot for either. She very successfully ensured that a

plot/background holes than Unification and what I found an extremely unsatisfactory lack of climax to Deanna's relationship with the Romulan Captain... The curious thing is that I agree completely with the rest of your comments!

DS9 - Various people, various opinions. What I've seen (pilot, 2 episodes) I like. The pilot could have done without the pseudo-mystical aspects of Kai Opaka and the Bajoran religion/philosophy, but since they are there I'd like to see them expanded in the light of what Sisko found out about the artefacts from the wormhole. It's still early days, I still say give it a chance.

I'd better start now and wrap this up before the editorial team have to AAAAAARGH!.....

Lorraine Poole - Stenhousemuir

It's been interesting seeing people's reactions to DS9. I thought Liz Caldwell's reaction was most telling - so like first reactions to TNG (where's Kirk and Spock...) I must say I've enjoyed it so far. None of the characters grabbed me at first, but I'm developing a liking for Odo and Quark (what am I saying?!) and of course, there's always Miles. Odo and Quark have the potential for great humour. They obviously have a running battle and I have this mental picture of Quark attacking inanimate objects with a pin in case it's Odo... Sisko started out well but has been very wooden in the first few episodes. I hope they don't have the same problems with him that they have with Riker, as in a lack of character participation. Doc Bashir may grow on me. He's certainly more believable as a doctor than Crusher ever was. I always feel she's so bored!

To Tracey Saunders: I don't think there's any special reason Picard doesn't like children - he's just made that way. Why should he want to settle down? As was made clear in 'We'll Always Have Paris', Starfleet has always been his life. He decided long ago that he could either have a career or a family but not both. Riker is of the same mould, as was Kirk.

Gosh, Eddie Yau's comments about Troi stirred up a bit of comment, didn't they? For what it's worth, I like both character and actress and think it's a shame they haven't done much with Troi beyond the obvious. Marina has tried within those constraints - am I the only one who noticed her mirroring Picard's tension in 'Lonely Among Us'?

To Lynne Collinson - Geordi has always been referred to by his first name simply because he's a relaxed, chummy sort of person and more likely to be on the same 'level' as lower ranks than Riker, who will always be Number One even off-duty. It's the unspoken line between management and staff. I was on first-name terms with a boss but we always knew when she was boss and I was employee.

To Jean Sloan - why exactly does your friend object to the idea of Observers as seen in 'First Contact'? It seems to me a logical way of finding out exactly what a society is like before making the final move toward contact. After all, only so much can be learnt from outside. Living with the natives would give valuable insight on attitudes other remote studies might not pick up on.

To William March - the Genesis Project probably had an artificial sun in the asteroid cave and I should think the water either came as part of the process (atmosphere = water?) or was supplied like the 'sun'. What the heck - it was pretty!

To Lee Sansome - Quite right. Trek cons have changed into a sit-on-yer-bums formula. When I first attended cons in the 70's, there used to be fashion shows with 'collections' of costumes with a theme or story attached. They often showed some real imaginative creation and were always well attended. With the advent of new Trek, there's ample opportunity for discussion panels - old crew vs new, Kirk vs Picard and so on. The first Rec Con was the nearest to an 'old fashioned' con I've been to in years. Your solution to the con problem seems eminently sensible, which is probably why it's never been done. For myself, I've never been bothered whether a con is 'official' or not. I go

by place, date and cost.

To Cheryl O'Connor - re: use of holodecks. I figure the ones used most on the show are for officer use only. Others may be used on a rotational basis, eg two hours a week per person. Synthahol doesn't have any effect - that's why they allow it! If I were Q... I would make my own Enterprise, complete with Jean-Luc Picard - and no one else!

A good explanation for the different Klingon races appears in 'Debt of Honour', where Kor explains that his race lost favour and were discommoded by the others, losing the right to call themselves Klingon. Makes as much sense as any.

Cathy Halford - North Walsham, Norfolk

On the which-Saavik-do-we-prefer debate I give Kirstie Alley the edge; but in Doctor Who I much prefer Lalla Ward's Romana mark 2 to the original, which goes against the theory that we like the actor we see first.

To Jennifer Blanchard et al - According to Shari Goodhartz, the writer of The Most Toys, Michael Piller wanted a scene in which Fajo forced Data to have sex with Varria (Starlog ST:TNG vol.23). In one draft Fajo's role was that of voyeur, but Rick Berman cut it because the show would have over-run. That might not have been the only reason.

To Pam Baddeley and Stephen Shaw - The Outcast does NOT treat homosexuality as an illness - it's making the opposite point. The J'naii authorities (the androgynous race) perceive sexual difference as an illness, but the diegesis makes it clear that it is to be seen as normal, and by association so is the homosexuality which the episode is referencing. It's difficult to see how any such script written by Humans (who obviously come in two genders) could configure sexual difference as abnormal, so I can't see how this misunderstanding could have arisen. Pam, even if you haven't seen the episode. Pre-judging something constitutes prejudice (it's where the word comes from, after all).

This goes back to Stephen's article in

N/L 26 (p.72). I have some sympathy for your dissatisfaction with the ending of The Host, Stephen- Beverly's inability to "keep up" with her lover's body changes was Paramount's opportunistic way out of a potential controversy, and while it's narratively feasible it avoids taking what could have been a valuable stand. But I must take issue with your reading of The Outcast. Surely illustrating another species' "deviation" as something which some Humans perceive as "normal" heterosexuality emphasises the illogical bigotry of homophobia. And if you thought the outcast in question looked happy or natural after his/her "treatment", you weren't paying attention; that was a bland, brainwashed, sad individual by the end of the episode, and Riker knew it.

To Edwin Yau - I too was very impressed by Face of the Enemy. I have a favourite episode for every season of TNG, and so far this is a strong contender for season six. All the better that a neglected character like Troi should be in the thick of it, and she was great (both Marina and Troi). Before this episode it had occurred to me that Troi's talents would make her a good intelligence officer, but I didn't anticipate her playing a Romulan one!

Keren Breen - Neath

I have a 'Spock' Bookmark which I bought at a Scholastic Book Fair we had at school. These are quite popular fund-raising events; (the school gets a percentage of the value sold as books.) My 'Spock' cost 40p, but no ISBN number is quoted. 'He' is made by Antioch Publishing, and is design no. H1566; I imagine he is in the same series as the bookmarks mentioned in n/l 27. [Janet: Some of the bookshops at Warp One had these.]

To Mathew Ingrouille - Oh, no, DON'T ask about stardates! This is the sort of thing that gets people going - is X before episode Y and if so, how come nobody knows about the events of episode Z, which is clearly before episode X... Read The Making of Star Trek if you can; Gene himself 'explains' them. I must be honest, I've never given much thought to them, I don't think they really

matter that much.

To anyone who thinks I have gone off my trolly, after reading my letter in the last n/l, wherein I am apparently talking about Deanna and then say, 'Talking about Bev' - I am not loopy (well, not more than usual, anyway) - some of my irrelevant chunterings were cut. (No hard feelings, folks - an editor's gotta do... etc.) *[Janet: Please don't think that we cut parts of letters because we think they are 'irrelevant chunterings'. Far from it. However we often have to cut for space and we do try to do it as fairly as possible.]*

To Karen Davies & Rebekah Owens - I have, thanks to you, realised that I have been getting 'avatar' and 'atavar' (reversion to an earlier type) mixed up all these years. Imagine my embarrassment(!) Maybe the episode in question should be 'Silicon Atavar' - which makes even less change!

Sara Jackson - Leeds

To Jennifer Blanchard: regarding your review of Old Yellow Eyes Is Back in N/L 27. I enjoyed your comments; but £17 seems very steep. I purchased my CD direct from Silva Screen Records for £11.99 incl p&p. For anyone who would like to contact them the address is Silva House, 261 Royal College Street, London, NW1 9LU. Tel: 071 284 0525. They are very reliable and always pleased to help with any queries.

To Sheila Clark: After a recent review of STILWOK and STIII:TSFS I have to say that I too prefer Curtis in the role of Saavik - although I wonder if anyone else found the idea of a Vulcan/Romulan with soft, curly hair a minor distraction - and no you're not the only one who couldn't abide Pete Duel in Alias Smith and Jones; I always had a yen for the golden-haired, blue-eyed replacement. What the heck was the guy's name?

To anyone who can help: What is the correct spelling of Vena/Vina's name in The Cage/The Menagerie. I've seen it many times with an 'i', yet James Blish used an 'e'. Okay, so I'm being picky - I guess it's the perfectionist trying to win out over the anarchist.

Michael Sadler - Ellesmere Port

I don't know if I am the only person with this problem, but the size of Guinan's hats is really getting on my nerves. Every time I borrow a Next Gen video she seems to be wearing an even larger hat than last time. I have come up with three theories as to why this is happening.

1) The hats will eventually grow so large that they will become a danger to the ship and Data and Geordi will spend an episode neutralising them before they rupture the hull.

2) Guinan uses the hats to carry drinks to the people in Ten Forward, acting like a kind of walking hostess trolley.

3) The hats serve as an episode guide to the fans, ie if the hat is dinner plate size you are watching season 1, but if the hat is dinner table size then you are watching season 6.

To Taruka Q - Re the cartoons - thanks very much for your comments. In answer to your kind offer, I would love to have a tribble, please. I wrote to you privately a few weeks ago but just in case that letter got lost in the post, my address is 7 The Paddock, Ellesmere Port, Great Sutton, South Wirral, Cheshire L66 2NN.

Floranna Limonci - Glasgow

Am I the only one to see the possibility of a romance between Picard and Deanna? I know that she and Riker are 'Imzadi' but in The Child Will Left her to mourn alone, in The Survivors he looked more curious than concerned at her pain and in Devil's Due what's her name - the con artiste - transformed herself into Deanna and not Beverly despite having met them both.

I have been a Star Trek fan through all its manifestations and thoroughly enjoy the newsletter, esp the postbag - my one criticism is that an increasing number of letters deal with the whereabouts of conventions, etc (I don't mean convention reports) and not about the people (characters) we love so much. However, that's only my opinion, BUT as a dear friend of mine has often said, I live by the premise that everyone is entitled to my opinion.

Does anyone remember Patrick Stewart in the BBC classic series North and South based on the novel by Mrs Gaskell? It was screened in the '70s. And did anyone notice the mistake by Geordi in Relics - he called Scotty 'Captain Scott' except for one 'Mr Scott' which slipped out - old habits die hard!

Lesley Arrowsmith - Cusop, Herts

A few thoughts on The Apple - recently seen again after several years.

1) Who built Vaal?

2) McCoy said he couldn't tell how old the natives were, then plumped for 10,000 years. Sloppy script writing?

3) What use are security guards who get clobbered by a native who's just had his first lesson in hitting people?

4) 'Putting the natives on the course of social evolution'. Now the Berlin Wall has come down, we're bound to view this more cynically. Western capitalism sounded fine until people in the East realised it also meant inflation, unemployment and other problems. Likewise the Tasmanians, who completely died out after Europeans tried to 'civilise' them. Perhaps my disquiet is really the idea that Kirk thought there was only one path, that of Western civilisation, to follow, when the central part of their society had been destroyed overnight. They were a peaceful people, probably without much of a 'Protestant work ethic' and they'd find it hard to adapt to life without Vaal. Kirk made it sound much too easy in his final speech.

Caroline Lewis - Tunbridge Wells

To Cheryl O'Connor - I found a very convincing explanation of how you could run in a holodeck in the book Reunion by Michael Jan Friedman. Basically the idea is that the floor moves like a treadmill to compensate for your movement. If a second person is stationary then the holodeck's visual field changes to give the illusion of a long distance between the two - it made sense when I read it!

To James Brand - What is wrong with Riker turning down a captaincy at this present time? Nobody would have moaned at Spock! Also, when did Riker ever say he

expected to get the Enterprise? It's news to me! Give the guy a break!

Mollie Weston - London

To Pan Baddeley - I was very sorry to learn of the problems you have been having with Electronic Male (N/L27). I too am a member of EM, and although I have not as yet lost any money, I have found their service to be somewhat slow. So far I have received the double N/L 8/9, which arrived last November. I was under the impression that N/L 10 was to have been published mid-February but I have not received it to date. They sent me a letter in October 1992 apologising for 'the slowness of their response time'. They stated that they were changing their accounting system and advised that all correspondence regarding outstanding orders should be addressed to T J Arizmendi, 1107 S Ellison Dr, San Antonio, TX 78245-1417. I believe, however, that Joyce McDonald still handles all letters of complaint.

In the most recent issue of the other American Brent Spinner N/L, Data Entries, (which incidentally I have found to be very good, being both fast and efficient) there is a letter from Joyce McDonald in which she writes of the problems of running a fan publication and holding down a job and running a home and family. She also states that she has had a number of bounced cheques and in her own words, "I have recently been burned badly by some unscrupulous fans who order great quantities of merchandise and enclose rubber cheques. It doesn't take many of them to sink a publication." I felt after reading her letter that the future of EM could be in some doubt. I do very much hope that I am wrong. I would like to endorse your comments that Brent is in no way to be held responsible, as I understand he does not sanction EM.

I wish you success in getting either the goods you ordered or your money back. It is a lot of money to lose.

Margie Ferguson - South Shields

Here's an idea that might help in organising video showings at cons, after all

the recent problems. Ask people on their registration form if they'll be watching videos and if so, what (OT, NG or DS9) and what seasons. Then you should hopefully get an idea of what should be shown in larger halls.

I know it's much better to watch an episode (even one you know the script of!) in a roomful of fans instead of alone or with non-believers, so even if you have something on tape you might still want to watch it at a con. At the moment only those who want to watch OT are 'suffering' by being stuck in smaller rooms, but soon the same will happen if you want to watch NG, DS9 will be getting all the attention. What happens after that will depend on how long DS9 lasts and if anything follows it. You can't argue with the fact that a new episode of NG or DS9 is going to be treated as more important than OT or seasons 1 - 3 of NG (which are rarely even shown at cons I go to). If I don't see seasons 4 - 7 at cons, I DON'T SEE THEM. (I'll believe the BBC's showing them when it happens.) I don't have satellite TV or access to it, or the money to buy or space to store all the official video releases.

I didn't like the way Janet Quarton (way, way back in N/L 22!) implied people watching videos aren't enjoying themselves - "I notice a rift developing... between those fans who go to conventions to enjoy themselves, meet and listen to the guests, and socialise, and those fans whose main aim in going to a convention is to catch up on the latest episodes on video." I know sitting watching videos isn't a social activity, no matter how large the group, but it's still enjoyable. Perhaps you didn't mean to imply that. Maybe you should have said something like "those who go to socialise and those who go to watch videos". I think I belong in both categories; I spend up to about half my time watching videos, but make sure I catch all the guests and mingle with other fans too.

Worf's new hairdo - nice ponytail! It does look a little strange, though.

Don't do a penpal list! Ads in the zine work better. I had 3 ads printed last summer, 1 in IDIC, 1 in another newsletter and 1 in

another club's separate penpal list. I got plenty of replies from the first two but none from the third, despite it's being a very large club. However, I have started a penpal list of my own, because so many of my penpals wanted *more* penpals. It's open to anyone, anywhere, any age, not just Trek fans. Anyone who wants to be included send their ad to me (46 Broughton Rd, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE33 2RP England) and I'll add them on. When the list gets long enough I'll be sending out copies to anyone who wants one, for a small charge to cover the cost of reproducing it.

Thanks to Brenda Allen for sending in the rank pip guide. I've remembered the guide I saw was card No. 76 of the inaugural edition set - it says no pip = Midshipman. It doesn't mention the rank of Chief Warrant Officer.

To Marion Pritchard - I had a jacket sent surface from the US and had to pay duty, so I'd say you were lucky.

Victoria Law - Glasgow

To Pam Baddeley - When I came back from the LA con I wrote to Brent thanking him for doing the con and asked him for a signed photo. I don't mind waiting several months but there are many people who are not prepared to wait. The companies who provide the signed photos of the ST actors are doing so because there is a demand for them.

As for someone paying £80 for a signed photo of Brent at Contagion, it is the sheer scarcity of such photos over here that puts up the prices so much at con auctions. Most people can afford \$15 (about £10) for a photo/book, but how many can afford £80?

To Margaret Gibb - I've done 4 cons, including one in LA, all on my own, and I've enjoyed myself at all of them. If you think that if you go on your own you're going to have a rotten time, no-one will take to you, etc, etc, the chances are that that is what will happen. But if you go thinking 'I'm going to enjoy myself, who cares if no-one talks to me', you will probably have a much better time than you thought. My advice is, just go!

Martin Helsdon - Chelmsford

Although Martin Stahl may be correct in saying that the TNG Klingon homeworld is not the original, it is possible that the Klingons did not have to evacuate. Much of the problem was that the Klingon economy couldn't be shifted to save the damaged ecosphere. With Federation aid, perhaps they could. It certainly sounds more feasible than moving the entire population of a planet - a planet of great Klingon families who are going to fight over getting their rightful share of the new homeworld. We are going to have to wait until official material clarifies the matter.

Kevin Thomas is incorrect in stating that the Melbourne was back in service six months after the battle with the Borg. The Nebula Class ship in The Wounded is the Phoenix. Unfortunately, repairing or salvaging those ships damaged at Wolf 359 would not be that easy. Remember that internal explosions and anti-matter containment failures in close proximity would have caused a great deal of radiation. The systems on the ship sections that appear still to be complete would be very unhealthy. In modern terms this would be like the lingering effects on electronic systems from a nuclear detonation. Even if Starfleet systems are quite 'hardened' the damage (radiation and subspace induced) inflicted in the battle would have been severe. Sorry, but most of those ships are hulks, dangerous hulks, and war graves besides. No, the Starfleet shipyards will be busy building new ships. This is why in The Wounded Starfleet couldn't afford a conflict with the Cardassians.

Replicators can make things, but as any engineer knows, the difficulties really begin when you start to integrate!

Dawn Tittley - Birmingham

To Cheryl O'Connor - Re your comments about dismissing the effects of synthehol. I see it as being like lucid dreaming. For example, if you are dreaming of being chased by something or someone, and you are aware that you are only dreaming, you can turn around and change

the events in the dream. I think that the synthehol business works the same way, ie you know you are intoxicated but just by thinking about it you can make your body reject the effects of the intoxication.

To Brenda Allen - If Spock and McCoy had provided the formula to the Scalosians, wouldn't it have been a breach of the Prime Directive? I know that's never stopped Kirk, or Picard for that matter, but it's the only explanation I can think of.

Vikki Tittley - Birmingham

Having been a member of IDIC for almost a year now I thought I'd write and say congratulations on the hard work that everyone puts into each newsletter. It's much appreciated.

While watching Yesterday's Enterprise on Sky last week, I had a thought. Should Data be there? No, I thought; if the Federation is at war would there be any exploratory ships? Again I thought, No. So if there are no exploratory ships, then Data's world would not have been explored, so there would be no Data in the Federation. What are other people's views on this?

To Lynne Collinson - Geordi is called Geordi because he is more relaxed when called by his first name - look at Hollow Pursuits when Geordi is talking to Reg; but Riker needs to be respected by the lower ranks.

Lee Sansome - Tamworth

To Carol Sterenberg - I may go down in IDIC history as the one who always leaps to an emotional defence of the actors, but nevertheless... While I agree wholeheartedly that Patrick Stewart's acting is "a triumph of tasteful economy", why spoil such an eloquent comment by going on to insult William Shatner? They are different actors playing different parts. The role of Kirk was written as an extrovert, dynamic individual who led by example. Given the nature of the material (for you must also view Kirk against the background of the 60s - he was used very much as the moral mouthpiece of a generation) is it surprising that Shatner chose

to play him larger than life? What you see as an overly exaggerated style is his interpretation of that particular role - not the sum total of his acting ability. And there are examples, within Trek, of Shatner's ability to play a scene with subtlety, where the material warrants that approach. Think about the scene in Amok Time where Kirk persuades Spock to explain pon farr, and City (all that controlled anguish) and the tension and guilt throughout Obsession. As for other roles, The Andersonville Trial is a good example of his range.

Picard is a totally different kettle of fish. Alongside all his noble qualities, the man is emotionally repressed, intensely private, extremely controlled. He's written that way and has to be played that way. For him, the enforced expression of deep feeling will be painful and therefore played more 'economically' by the actor. Given a different writing approach, Stewart's interpretation of the character would have been different also. And if you doubt his deciding to 'ham it up' no matter what the lines, try watching When the Lion Roars!

Of course, the only way to truly test this hypothesis would be for the two actors to swap roles and see how Shatner's Picard compares to Stewart's Kirk! But I think I prefer to watch each of them play their own roles in very different, but equally charismatic, style.

And pardon me for being affronted by your claim to be of a 'more subtle generation'. I am able to appreciate the merits of TNG as well as yourself, I assure you. But I have also appreciated, for the last twenty odd years, the 'profound, moving storylines' and 'deeper glimpses of the characters' which Classic Trek also provides, in abundance! If growing up with Star Trek - watching it through each of its incarnations - has enabled me to appreciate each of them for its own merits and forgive each its shortcomings, then I consider myself the more fortunate.

To Nina Lynch - Aargh! I'm deeply wounded! Accusing me of preferring TNG

over CT is like accusing Spock of being over-emotional! Was my argument really that vague? Now that is worrying!

To Karen Davies and Rebekah Owens - Now be fair, ladies. You cannot accuse CT of sexism when it comes to lighting. The women may sometimes be shown in soft focus, but so are the men! Personally, I wouldn't be without all those wonderfully over-lit, sparkling-eyed closeups of Kirk and Spock! Query: does this make Kirk a male bimbo by your reckoning?

To Chris Bailey - If the Enterprise-D were permanently stranded and the crew forced to colonise a planet, why couldn't they produce the necessary children in the normal way? It isn't necessary for *survival* to have them on the ship already. Far more likely that Starfleet recognises, by the 24th century, that people should not have to choose between a family and a career - something far too many people in the 20th century have to do.

To Lorna Elliott - Thanks for your article about ST V:TFF. At last, someone else who sees that, for all its faults, this movie is the *best* in its portrayal of the special relationship which Kirk, Spock and McCoy share.

Russell Witheyman - Crawley, W Sussex

Firstly, thank you to all the people who who replied to my True-Q letter in N/L 27. Fortunately I've just seen Tapestry and it isn't only an excellent Q story, it's also one of the best episodes this season so far. As for DS9, I'm still enjoying it (I've seen 6 or 7 episodes now) but it has a terribly claustrophobic and *small* feel to it. In TNG you get new sets every week, either new ships or different planets or even outside locations; so far in DS9 everything has been on the station except for a couple of alien ship shots. They should definitely travel through the wormhole more often.

The only other thing so far about DS9 that bugs me is the continual use of TNG characters to fall back on; it definitely doesn't need these characters. We've, so far, had

Picard, Lursa and B'tor, Q, Vash and now Whoopi Goldberg will be appearing as well as Majel Barrett as Mrs Troi. The series should have cross-overs, but not this much! What do other readers think?

I have, so far, enjoyed the most, Captive Pursuit, which is an excellent action episode while still supplying Trek's moral undertones. Q-less was OK - like True-Q, Q was wasted slightly but Vash was excellent. It was nice to see her again and a good follow-up to Qpid.

Recent TNG episodes have been improving as they usually do mid-season onwards; Ship in a Bottle had a nice holodeck twist to it, whilst Face of the Enemy and Tapestry were two of the best stories so far.

Marie Park - Hull

Having received and read thoroughly my first newsletter from IDIC, I thought I'd jump in at the deep end by offering some of my own impressions and opinions.

Lorna Elliott's article, Unspoken Truths Finally Spoken in The Final Frontier, was a well-written and thoughtful piece of work. I agree wholeheartedly with her opinion that TFF stands alone in the sense that more emphasis is placed on the friendship between Kirk, Spock and McCoy. Sybok expresses such a friendship with his words "The bond between the three of you is very strong." TFF has indeed found expression for all the unspoken feelings of loyalty and friendship.

Something worth chewing over with regard to Kirk - it's known that in TFF and TUC that he had a great deal of difficulty in coming to terms with the death of his son David Marcus - it took him more than ten years to do so. However, there has been no indication from the Classic Trek episode Operation Annihilate! or since that Kirk was given the chance to come to terms with the death of his elder brother Sam. I can accept the criteria that at the time, Kirk was Captain of the Enterprise first and foremost, but Sam was closer to Kirk than David Marcus ever was - could the pain that he felt in TFF and TUC include the grief that he felt for Sam?

Also what became of Peter Kirk, his nephew?

I am interested in reading the various arguments about the Kirk/Picard handover of the Enterprise (1701-A?) but I cannot see the practicality of such a suggestion, since -

1) TUC was set in about the year 2296, certainly the end of the 23rd century; Jean-Luc Picard hadn't even been born until about 2308 or thereabouts.

2) Where would the Enterprise 1701-B and 1701-C fit in? And who commanded the 1701-B?

3) To Carol Sterenberg - I agree with you that Picard would have to be very old to have been able to have commanded the Enterprise 1701 A-D. I would also like to know what became of Kirk by the time of TNG; my reason being that after seeing McCoy as an Admiral in Encounter at Farpoint and Ambassador Spock in Unification I & II, wouldn't it be worth knowing if Kirk is still alive or not?

To Peter Arnett - I would have believed that the only reason that The Cage was edited as much as it was for The Menagerie was to give the impression that the Talosians were showing to the Enterprise *what they themselves had wanted to show at the time*. But I do agree that it does warrant confusion.

Paul Hulford - Camberley, Surrey

To Carol Sterenberg - I don't think the idea is for Kirk to literally hand over command to Picard, just command of the film series. The Captain Kirk's log entry at the end of ST VI certainly makes me think that that was the point where he 'handed over' command to the Next Generation.

Personally, I would like to see a ST VII, but I'm sure it won't star the NG cast. Paramount will almost certainly start the numbering from scratch. Although Star Trek: The Next Generation 1:Q Here may be a mouthful of film title, at least it leaves the door open for the original films to make a comeback in the event of a box-office disaster. (The idea of the Excelsior being renamed Enterprise and being commanded by Sulu and Chekov with a new crew does

appeal to me). It also raises the possibility of having two concurrently running film series. If Paramount got their act together we could have alternating Trek films each summer. STVII in 1995, ST:TNG1 in 1996, STVIII in 1997 etc etc. Any objections?

To Lynne Collinson - Marina Sirtis graduated from the Guild Hall School of Music and Drama, when and where I do not know.

To Martin Helsdon - I thought a contrail was the queue for the video room.

I thought I'd throw my two pennyworth into the Creation debate. I have never attended a con - a Creation one or not - so I can't say whether they will spoil them, but if their conventions are as bad as their merchandise we have a lot to fear. I have recently seen their Deep Space 9 teaser mug which has the stardate 9301.11 proudly emblazoned on it. It doesn't take much research to find out that it should have been 46xxx; they could have asked anyone who takes more than just a passing interest in TNG.

I realise that Creation's business is to make money but they must realise by now that Trek fans are fussy at best and would be sure to question their error. It seems to me that since Gene Roddenberry died there has been little vetting of the people to whom licenses are granted. The number of products on the market is getting ridiculous and the quality of some should be questioned. We cannot be too far away from Gene Roddenberry's nightmare of Klingon bubble bath.

Carol Sterenberg - Brighton

I was interested to read the letter from Karen Davis and Rebekah Owens querying the meaning of 'Silicon Avatar'. As they said, an avatar is one form in which a deity appears; Vishnu is said to have had nine avatars so far, the eighth of which was Krishna and the ninth, Buddha. The tenth will appear in the form of a white horse with wings to destroy the earth. This is the only connection I could make with the Crystal

Entity; it is a life form which destroys all living things, and ravages worlds. The word 'avatar' suggests that the Crystal Entity had previous incarnations (possibly in a different form) or will have later ones.

Re Ann Peters' article (Did Soong Create Life?) it occurred to me that if one must reserve to God the right, and ability, to create life, then one must concede that if Soong did indeed create life when he built Data, he did so with God's help/approval. If one accepts the existence of God, then nothing can exist, nor come into being, without His approval or active involvement.

Although Data is artificial in nature, he does have certain mechanical functions and (presumably) bio-mechanical components, which must surely have degenerated during the thirty or so years of his existence. It would be difficult to imagine building bio-mechanical functions into an otherwise durable android if it did not have the capacity to regenerate these automatically, in which case presumably it's handled by the sort of cell replication that's usually controlled by DNA, using ingested nutrients to provide the necessary building materials and energy. One could say that an important quality of a living being (and one of its qualifications for being considered 'alive') is the ability to maintain its structure by such processes. Data also shows a capacity to adapt to changing circumstances.

It may not be a requisite of life forms to have the drive to reproduce (I'm alive, and I don't) but it seems unlikely to me that a non-living being would have it. It only remains to ask if the method used to do so is relevant. If not, then Data, having created Lal, is plainly a living being.

Stephen Shaw - Stockport

Re ordering goods from the States - I have done it a lot over many years! The declared value needs to include the cost of postage and insurance. It appears that lower value small packages will usually get by without charge - generally anything with the 'small value' GREEN customs declaration. If a WHITE customs declaration is used, your

chances of being charged are higher. I generally send over a green sticker from my local post office (maximum value £50) although they are standard from the US Postal Service (Form 2976). I have also, twice, contested a customs charge collected by the postman, and received a full refund both times - you obviously need to have some knowledge/experience to win on this, but there is no charge for asking them to think again.

To Pan Baddeley - Re the Gerrold 'homosexual' script. Not as easy an answer as I first thought - I now have a very cheap second hand copy of *Lost Voyages of Trek and The Next Generation* by Bill Planer (Cinemaker Press, August 1992) which brings me up to date on this.

My copy of the script is *Blood and Fire*, dated May 13th 1987. The title page ONLY has the title changed to *Blood and Ice*. Planer's book advises that *Blood and Ice* was the title of a rewrite by Herb Wright, quite different.

My comments relate to the original, and Planer quotes Gerrold as follows: "(There is only one scene that) deals with the relationship between Freeman and Eakins, and if you don't know better, they're just good friends... It was just put on a shelf. I was very hurt and very upset about it, and the only way I can share it is to allow you to buy it and let you decide for yourself if this would have been a good Star Trek episode."

For FIFTH season TNG, Herb Wright came back on board as a producer, and as scripts were short, he dusted down his rewrite. It was rejected by Co-executive Producer Michael Piller: "Nice script, but it's really a first season type of show."

Does anyone know anything of videos of *Rec-Con*? Seem to have disappeared without trace?

Shirley Shatner - Winsford, Cheshire

To John Marshallsay - First contact. According to *Strangers from the Sky* (I think!) a Vulcan survey ship malfunctions

and crash lands. The survivors are picked up by plankton gatherers. The 'officials' panic, believing in an invasion! And so, Vulcans came to Earth first!

To Nina Lynch - I like the later movie uniforms, Classic Episode uniforms never seem very comfortable or practical - consider female crew members who beam down in normal uniform to a previously unexplored planet. If it was me, I would be covered in bites and stings in minutes. Besides which, something was not very strong, the number of times Kirk's shirt was torn!

David J Raper - Keyingham, N. Humberside

To David Gallagher - I don't think Sulu would feel right changing the name of his ship to *Enterprise* - *Excelsior* is his ship just as *Enterprise* is Kirk's. It is far more likely that following the success of the *Excelsior*, Starfleet would build more - we know they did from TNG - and one of these is the NCC 1701-B.

To Sara Jackson - I know that Starfleet does not pay its officers with physical money but my point is that pockets are useful, if only for stashing the odd phaser, packet of mints, Swiss Army knife, etc.

To Jean Sloan - In *First Contact* the idea of the observers was to gather information on Malcorian society and so avoid misunderstandings. I shudder to think what would happen if aliens attempting contact with us did not take the time to study Humans properly, in their own environment, which may mean employing suitably disguised observers. The Prime Directive ensures that such observers do not interfere.

To Edward Woo - While a Security Chief with martial arts skills is a comforting thing to have, in Security it is brains which truly matter. Any situation where hand to hand combat results is by definition a failure, which I said before - but I think it's worth repeating.

To Kirstie Jordan - In *The Big Goodbye* Data was interacting with the holodeck environment as Carlos, Dixon Hill's friend

from South America, and had thoroughly familiarised himself with the genre so he knew what to say and how to respond. Outside the holodeck, in real life, Data has no such predetermined guidelines to follow and as a rule avoids slang rather than risk a verbal faux pas. Soong did not program him to be 'less perfect' than Lore. Data was created without emotions for the purpose of finding out what had gone wrong with Lore, who was emotionally unstable, but otherwise they are identical.

Personally I hope that the matter of Data's 'elder brother' is resolved happily, since the good commander has had nothing but bad luck with his relatives. I always thought The Offspring to be one of the most touching TNG episodes to date and it was a crying shame about Lal - I felt like crying, I must admit - we can but hope. Either way it would be both a shame and a missed opportunity if Paramount did not resolve the matter of Lore, hopefully for the best.

Taruka Quauhtezcatl (The Bolivian Terrorist) - Preston

To Peter Arnett re Vulcan's Glory. As far as I can recall from the TV Zone Star Trek 25th Anniversary Issue, Paramount put a clampdown on pre-Cage stories immediately after publication of the excellent book by Dorothy Fontana. Likewise they slammed down a ban on Data Becomes Human stories, but weren't quick enough to catch Jean Lorrah's Metamorphosis. It seems that they don't like ideas they consider non-Trek creeping in - witness the hatchet jobs they've done on the DC Comics adaptations!

To the editing staff- where did pages 39/40 and 61/62 of N/L 27 go? While it was a pleasure to read my letter twice I feel I must speak up for whoever got cut out. *(Sheila - collating mistakes can happen, unfortunately. The printer does a sterling job but all it takes is a momentary distraction, like a ringing phone that has to be answered, and a page can be missed. All we can say is if you have missing pages let us know immediately and we'll do what we can to provide them.)*

To Tracey Saunders - Actually I think

the problem's solved bar a few ripples. At least you managed to get a prosecution for assault - charges had to be dropped in the case Karen and I mentioned for lack of evidence. Incidentally, if you feel like complaining to someone who knows what you're talking about you can find me at 8 Brook St, Higher Walton, Preston, Lancs PR5 4DU. I won't give Karen's address as she's still on the run from the 'gentleman' concerned.

To Stephen Shaw - Karen's parents brushed the whole unpleasant incident under the carpet and left me to try to pick up the pieces, or as she put it, "how can you rebuild your life when half the bits are missing?" It won't be a surprise to know that I find any form of 'comedy' which relies on the element of humiliation offensive.

I'm beginning to think my surname's becoming a joke, so many people refuse to spell it! Do you have the same problem, Janet? *(Sheila - Yes, she does, and so does Valerie. When the three of us are together and need to give a name, we usually use mine. Everyone can spell 'Clark' - apart from the folk who insist on adding an unnecessary and non-existent 'e' to the end of it!)*

To Edward Woo - Female Captains. Does Rachel Garrett (Yesterday's Enterprise) count? Or the Captain in Conspiracy?

To Dawn Tittley re Christopher Plummer. One of the reasons he played a Klingon so convincingly is that he had a perfect grasp of the Klingon language and pronunciation, which he carried through to his English lines. I'm not surprised; he's one of the few actors I know who can speak Quechua (which he did in the film Royal Hunt of the Sun) absolutely faultlessly, down to the slight nasal accent.

To Kirstie Jordan - According to an unimpeachable source the only time Data ever actually used a contraction as himself was in Datalore, when he says "Yes, sir, I'm fine" which was a joke between Brent Spiner and director Rob Bowman to see if the directors were awake. Other than that, most of the apparent contractions have actually

been run so quickly that they only *sound* like contractions. (Info gleamed from guest talk, Dallas, Feb 29 1992; and the unimpeachable source? Brent Spiner.)

K'Tan Vestai Kuragan - KAG Scotland

To Carol Kean and Frances Abernethy - Thanks for the gold hologram card and the autographed cards.

To Gaile Wood - Hope you enjoyed Warp One. Sorry I didn't make it. Have you got a Klingon name?

To Edward Woo - REMEMBER THE KILT FOR CONTAGION!

To Mark Dwyer - Never mind the photo, send the negative! There are a few people who would want it. Copyright of what was under the kilt is held by K'tan Vestai Kuragan!

To Amanda Spence - Yes, we had time travelled to get to Starbase '93 - like I've time travelled and enjoyed Contagion already!

To Carol Kean - You can see that photo any time you want, and you can save your money for buying photos of That Android - or maybe Sid from DS9?

Lloyd Lewis - Bridgend

To Baerbel Schmidt - I may be labouring the point but I really cannot see that Crosby is any less a *beautiful, feminine woman* than Sirtis. The ability to do the job depends on authority in the first place and, as Edward Woo says, technique and speed if push comes to shove.

To Tracey Saunders - We are not descended from the apes. We have a common ancestor with the apes - subtle but important.

To Marion Pritchard - Re women in employment. Society has got a very long way to go before any sort of equality is possible. When a woman does reach a position of importance, in my experience she is still treated disparagingly. At the moment society in the UK is going in the opposite

direction, with the inequality of the sexes being reinforced both by the media and the government.

To William Marsh - Genesis planet. Shift to interior. Waterfall, no problem, if they've got an ecosystem supporting itself then it's going to produce water and it's got to go somewhere, so why not a waterfall? As for the sun, possibly it's a construct placed there simply to heat and illuminate the centre of the planet? A cold-fusion reactor held in position by the artificial gravity generators that are keeping everyone in position?

To Dee Lee - There are also an awful lot of twentieth century men who simply don't know the difference between assertive and aggressive, no matter whether in their own behaviour or in that of somebody else - of any sex.

To Helen White - Yes it was. McCoy killed his Dad for humane reasons (unless you think it was for the inheritance?) As we've seen recently in Mundania, it is euthanasia. The obvious corollary to Sheila's argument is that by putting a plastic bag over someone's head I am offering them the chance to survive while temporarily atmospherically challenged.

To Martin Helsdon - Some very nice pewter spaceships advertised in the Official Fan Club's magazine every issue.

To David & Taruka - I enjoyed the Klingon dictionary foul-up in Stivvy, so for me it did work. The unbalanced engines joke does deserve some kind of award - the good taste police knocking on Michael Sadler's door at 3 o'clock in the morning, possibly.

Re DS9 fan fiction. 20th Century Fox have had a long-running and successful ban on Aliens fan fiction; they're perfectly willing to write to you about it, threatening to chop your hands off if you even think about it. So be warned, it can happen.

ST novels - are they getting worse? It's like reading assembly instructions for flat-pack furniture.

Kevin Thomas - Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan

I have now seen the second part of Time's Arrow and agree with those who found it an anti-climax. I also have problems with the episode The Next Phase, in which the Romulans let Federation personnel onto their craft and ALLOWED THEM TO HELP! What happened to the 'die rather than accept help from the Federation' credo?

To William Marsh - In the novelisation of ST II, the sunlight in the Genesis cave comes from a small trapped variable sun, although I much prefer the 'ever heard of double-glazing' theory.

To Helen White - The Vulcan earmakers whose address you lost is Hightower Crafts. Clwt Melyn Pen Lon, Newborough, Anglesey, Gwynedd, LL61 6RS or phone 0248 79500. The Vulcan ears used to be £3.95 (I've got an old catalogue). They also do Klingon foreheads/wigs and the complete uniform.

To John Marshallsay - Re first contact with aliens. According to The Worlds of the Federation, in the year 2039 the starliner Enterprise detected radio signals in the Alpha Centauri system that suggested intelligent life was there. In the year 2048 the USS Icarus was the first Terran vessel to make physical contact with people from Alpha Centauri.

Stephen Daniels - Kelso

Now for some griping! Regarding BSKyB buying seasons 4, 5 (& 6?) of TNG - I quite agree with Janet when she says that Sky have treated ST fans well - they have; the only problem is that this restricts TNG to a very small percentage of the population. Many younger fans will just have to miss out because their parents won't/can't afford to buy a dish and I know my landlady would be none too happy if she returned home to see I had welded a satellite dish to the side of her house! For people in my situation the only option left is to buy the videos, which works out very expensive indeed - I calculate it at nearly £312 for seasons 4 & 5 alone, never mind seasons 6 & 7 and DS9! (No video shops near me rent them).

At this point I would like to refer to a letter I received from the BBC. It is almost identical to the one Alan Stephen got and it clearly states "(Sky) will not be able to show the subsequent seasons (4 - 7) until we have broadcast them in due course". LIES? It would appear so! I am furious.

Barry O'Doherty - Maghera, Derry, Ireland

To Graeme G Lowe - I like your explanation for Valeris' uniform. In Cinefantastique Vol 22 No 5 (April 1992) it states that the Federation President in STVI:TUC is an Efrosian. Presumably so is the helmsman on the USS Saratoga in STIV:TVH.

Re teleportation; if you ask most people if they believed that teleportation was possible, they'd probably not take you too seriously. But what was once a joke is fanciful no longer, because six physicists have invented a way to teleport matter at the speed of light.

By the way, I recently bought a new camera, called the Konica Aiborg (pronounced I, Borg)...

Jennifer Cobbing - London

In April some friends and I attended the Unification Convention at the Britannia International Hotel, Docklands, for one day on the Saturday. I am not being unnecessarily critical and I know that the reputation that the UFP Committee have for organising good conventions won't suffer from what I say. I think those intending to go to UFP '94 would like to know about something that we were glad to discover. We checked to see if there was somewhere to eat other than the hotel and found nowhere. Docklands was like a ghost town, all the shops were closed and the pub opposite the hotel doesn't serve food at the weekend. There was one restaurant down the road that was open, but it looked horribly expensive. The point of telling everyone this is so that you are forewarned of the difficulty of getting food, etc, outside the hotel.

I understand that for many people living far from London that cons being held

there mean a lot of travel. I'm very happy about UFP '94 being held in London, obviously because that's where I live - and it'll make a change to be so near. In the eight years or so that I've been going to cons I have had to do a lot of travelling. It took 6 hours to get to Blackpool and will have taken even longer to get to Morecambe. I do not envy anyone from out of London their journey through London to Docklands (it's not easy, especially on public transport) but we had our turn the first time we went to a con in Birmingham and got hopelessly lost. I have always slightly envied the 'locals' at cons who have been able to turn up early on Friday and stay until the last minute on Monday, especially when I've got something like 6 hours travelling to get home. I relish the fact that next year I could get to UFP by taxi and it would cost me less than the journey to a con usually does.

To Stephen Daniels - You can buy cheap plastic video cases at WH Smith, 3 library book type for £2.99 or three plain with a slot on the spine for a title for £3.25. Also Argos sells a pack of 10 library book type for £4.45.

To Kevin Davies - I agree with your comments that Paramount have at last got total control over an aspect of Trek, which is something Gene was clever enough to keep for himself. And it's probably something that Paramount have kicked themselves for because they didn't realise what they had years ago. As for Creation running cons here - it crosses my mind from time to time and I cringe at the thought of fan-run cons coming to an end. I agree that if Creation did start cons in the UK they would be successful - even with die-hard fans, because Creation would be able to attract and pay for any guest they chose. But it has occurred to me that perhaps if this happened we could still have our own cons (I trust there is no legal way they could stop us) and we could go back to the way cons used to be, with 500 or so attendees, which were such nice 'family affairs'.

Gaile Wood - Tamworth

To Steve Davies - Hypocrisy is a little

harsh, don't you think? I've never considered it a problem to lust after a member of the opposite sex openly, nor has the gender of the person doing so even lifted one of my brows by so much as a millimetre. If it wasn't for a good healthy lech now and again I reckon the Human race would've died out long ago. What I was trying to get at was how the way we look determines how the rest of Humanity see us. I do find references to a pretty face, being blonde, nice legs etc.. to be a little trying because, in my opinion, they should have absolutely nothing to do with an individual's ability to do a particular job. Whether they've got a sloping forehead, knuckles that drag on the ground, or, conversely, are drop down dead gorgeous should not be the issue. What's important is whether they can DO THE JOB REQUIRED! So, if we're talking about Marina Sirtis's spectacular looks, she's doing the job she's paid for - namely, getting wassacks like us to discuss whether or not she'd have been a good security officer. But not, you note, whether she's a good actress, which is what she's doing - acting.

To Stephen Shaw - While true witnessing an attack can leave trauma, there are few who would choose to attempt stopping such a thing. Some time ago when I worked for a Bank, the branch I worked at was raided by an armed, masked man. But, believe me, the last thing on my mind was to ask for verification of his signature for such a large advance (amazingly persuasive, a shotgun). It was a numbing experience, but not long lived. Indeed, I found I recovered rather quickly from this painful episode. What was far more frightening was having to go and view an identity parade and pick out the suspect by touching that person. That gave me pause because he *knew* who I was. As for familial bickering... Well, you're very lucky if yours doesn't. Mine is marked by its tendency to discuss everything at high volume - something I admit to enjoying. And the relevance for H/C is that it's not the suffering but the *comfort* which is important. Also, don't forget there are many kinds of pain, some being mental, with the treatment of them varying, and generally they herald growth in an individual.

To Eddie Yau - Good God, we agree about something! Shock horror. By that statement I mean the lack of passion and drama is notable by its absence in TNG. The glimpses we get are not enough to fuel the episodes and they are left a little bland for my taste, certainly. Having said that, there're a few exceptions when we do get to see the crew behaving as if they *care* about each other. One of the reasons Chains of Command didn't gel for me was the way the crew behaved once Picard had been captured. Most unsatisfactory.

Warp-One... What can I say about this con that won't be said by others in a far more eloquent manner? Well done to the knackered trio who managed the best weekend's entertainment I've ever had the good fortune to attend. Guys, you deserve an accolade, and a bloody medal. I loved every minute of it, and I look forward to hearing Warp-Two is on impulse... (Hi to all my new friends too!)

Neil J Barrett - I live in Preston but I'm actually from Doncaster

Sorry about missing the deadline last month. My expected answer was polish/Polish but the others from Sheila and Taruka are equally valid.

To Karen Davies and Rebekah Owens (on more strong women). How many of the characters that you mentioned have re-appeared? Not a lot. As I said, Pulaski started well but then went downhill. In 'Elementary, Dear Data' she appears only as a damsel in distress. (A totally misplaced title anyway, it should have been 'Elementary, My Dear Geordi', shouldn't it?) The rest are all aliens and guest stars.

To Dee Lee (on Bajorans). Well, Ro and Kira were initially the same character so you should expect similarities. Compare with the Saavik/Valeris overlap. Given the way the race has been kicked around they can only have two states, 'aggressive' and 'doormat'. The key to being assertive is that no-one else should notice that you are actually doing anything special.

To Ann Peters (on ULL). I'm a systems analyst not a geneticist so I can't explain 'replicative fading'. However, I expect that sociological pressures would be significant. The cloned colonists will have developed patterns of behaviour, taboos etc. over a number of generations and it required an external trigger or a crisis to break them down. Your idea of reintroducing sexual procreation might well be horrific to them. Notice also that Riker blithely suggests that both societies suddenly adopt polyandry, without any concern for how the average colonist might feel.

To Keren Breen/TQ/Lee Sansome (on Troi in uniform). I think it quite reasonable that Troi should wear ordinary clothes or a non-military uniform when dealing with civilians and family members etc. in order to make them more at ease and help build a rapport. However, if she is on Away Team duty or at an official function she should return to uniform and wear her rank pips.

To Simon Plumbe (on uniforms and officers). It was me, not Eddie Yau, who pointed that Troi is not addressed respectfully. McCoy first; in the series he preferred to be addressed as Doctor rather than Lt Commander McCoy and the same applies to Doctors Crusher and Pulaski. However, he does get the respect, Chapel calls him 'Sir' when acknowledging an order. Interestingly, Chapel is addressed interchangeably as Nurse, Miss and Lieutenant. Scotty second; his engineer's waistcoat bears the Starfleet emblem and plaque and it is therefore a uniform item. However, like Troi's outfits it has no rank badging and therefore if you don't actually recognise the wearer you don't know if they are a superior officer. If you don't recognise someone as an officer, you are not obliged to obey their orders. That's one of the reasons for having a uniform in the first place.

To Barry Doherty (on O'Brien). I'm agreeing with you for a change. In J M Dillard's novelisation of 'Emissary' it is suggested that O'Brien's transfer included a promotion to Ensign; I was puzzled because he is already Lieutenant O'Brien. The

position of Chief Operations Officer should be held by a Lieutenant if not a Lieutenant Commander anyway. I suspect that someone heard the phrase "Chief O'Brien" and assumed that he was a Chief Petty Officer.

To Philip Morley (on Styles). The Excelsior was sabotaged by her own Chief Engineer. You cannot expect Styles to have foreseen that and it would be out of character for Starfleet to reprimand him for it. If he wasn't any good, would Starfleet have given him an extremely expensive prototype battleship to play with?

To everybody (on first commands). It's just occurred to me. If Sulu can get a battleship as his first command then Riker can have the Galaxy-class Enterprise. Or did Sulu have a smaller ship in the period between STV and STVI and only got the Excelsior back when Styles moved on (perhaps a sideways promotion to Starfleet HQ)?

Helen White - Bracknell, Berks

To K'tan Vestai Kuragan (and Edward Woo) - 'Edward Woo in a kilt'? Say no more; I'll be at Contagion!

To Cheryl O'Connor - re toilet training dogs (or cats or targs, come to that) aboard a starship: I would imagine you just program the holodeck for a 'backyard' scenario and proceed as usual.... I wonder what they use for newspaper in the 24th century?

Re 'if you were Q what would you do?' Ooh, temptation! For a start I'd force the BBC to buy lots of sci-fi, especially DS9, and put it on at a decent time of day and next I'd arrange to stop time while I was at a convention, so that it could go on longer! There are plenty of other things that I'd do, possibly (who am I kidding? The word is 'probably'....) involving a certain Vulcan, android, shapeshifter and young and awkward doctor, but the former was what immediately sprang to mind.

To Gaile Wood and Nina Lynch - re make-up and costumes: these subjects came up in two talks at Warp One. Richard Arnold

says that the famous Carolyn Palamas dress was stuck on with glue, and had to be attached in a different place each time owing to Leslie Parrish's sensitive skin.... Marina said that she has to go to a beautician regularly, as you aren't allowed to have zits in the 24th century!

To Brenda Allen and David Raper - re pockets in uniforms: in The Naked Time, Sulu clearly has pockets in his trousers (during his 'D'Artagnan' session on the Bridge), although I don't recall anyone ever actually using pockets in original Trek, and I know that officially they didn't have them.

To Zander Bruce - re Worf's ponytail: I LOVE it - at last, a proper Klingon hairstyle. Michael Dorn has been quoted as saying that he's long wanted Worf to have a ponytail because the TNG hairdressers see longish hair and 'they have to curl it'. I mean, a Klingon with a girly hairstyle; it's just not on! Unless you are a girly, of course.

If neither money nor shape were a problem (I think I've got problems on both counts) which costume would anyone most like to have, out of ALL Trek (ie original, animated, films, TNG and DS9)? I think Geordi's 'lizard' outfit from Identity Crisis would be great, although it isn't really an 'outfit', I suppose! The Klingon Ambassador's (STIV) would be good, too, if a little impractical with all those weighted plaits swinging about.

Finally which three Trek characters (out of the whole lot again) would you like to be, if you had to stay in character and not 'impose yourself on the role? My first choice would have to be Odo - think of the fun you could have! Number two would be Doctor McCoy (he's a great character, and you get to work with Kirk and Spock) and three would be Data (I'd be able to find out whether he really was 'a person' or not, and I'd get to work with Picard et al).

Edward Woo - Lat 53.25 N Long 2.55 W

Thanks to S Lyford Smith and Noreen Nunn for replies to my wanted ad in N/L 25.

I have now got a copy of the medical manual. have promoted her to Lt. Commander.

To Margie Ferguson & James Brand - It looks like Riker will never become the Captain of the Enterprise nor will Shelby be First Officer. A twist for a 7th season episode would be if Shelby returned as Captain of her own ship. This would make Riker think about his future and the decisions he made not to take a Captain's chair and whether he would get any more offers.

To George Haggarty - I don't think Creation Cons would work here because only up to 1200 fans can be catered for in the big hotels. It wouldn't be enough to justify the profits they would want or pay for the guests to come over from the States. Like you say, the fan network would never want it here.

To Lee Sansome - I am sure you are incorrect about the length of business meetings. I've only known of one in the past 3 - 4 years that has over-run. Business meetings are important to all fans, and all should attend.

To Nina Lynch - the definition of tachyons is the same for Star Trek and Blake's Seven.

To Zander Bruce - I heard that 2 cats were used to play Spot.

To Barry O'Doherty and Michael Sadler - I thought the two Styles were relatives but not the same person.

To Matthew Ingrouille and John Marshallsay - The ST Chronology has details about stardates and first contact with alien lifeforms significantly before 2160.

To Ann Robertson - On a Klingon ship you can't use the transporter if the shields are up. However, if the ship is cloaked the shields don't have to be up.

To Graeme Lowe - An officer in training always starts at the rank of Lieutenant; that's how Valeris has a Lieutenant's rank. I suppose being top of her class and volunteering for the mission must

To Linda Wood - How about these?

Riker does it orderly.
Troi does it psychologically
La Forge does it blindly.
Worf does it growlingly.
Ro does it radically.
O'Brien does it beamingly.
Yar does it physically.
Sarek does it diplomatically.

Keith Hughes - Crewe

To Janet Quarton - As promised, my first contribution to the newsletter. Thanks for a very interesting chat at Warp One, and that by the time you read this your health is back to normal.

To Sheila Clark - To help with referring back to comments in newsletters, can I suggest that the page number is also quoted - ie To Sheila re N/L 26 P 40. *(Sheila - the writer would have to give the page reference.)*

On the subject of waiting lists for holodeck use. There are various-sized holodecks which would be used depending on the program being run - eg Worf's training - small. Parks, beaches, skiing etc, large. The large ones would have communal time allocated.

At all at IDIC - if anyone lives close to me or would like to phone or write to talk TREK in all its TV or film guises, my address is 205 Lime Tree Ave, Crewe, CW1 4HZ, Tel. 0270 585021.

Zander Bruce - Thornton, Fife

To Stephen Shaw - Re your letter in N/L 27 about people traumatised by violence who never receive counselling or help - boy, did it hit the spot. It's something I've felt strongly about for the past two years in particular. You see, two years ago this May, my Gran was murdered by her second husband. As if her death wasn't traumatic enough by itself, the trial a few months later was nigh unbearable. The suddenness of it all made it unbelievable, as we were very close and saw each other every day. This

brings me to some advice for you, should you want it. Spend these last months with your Mum as a way of saying goodbye and the things mothers and sons rarely do say. Do it for yourself, your Mum, and all of us who never got a chance.

As for the question of female Captains, I think it's a great pity that Rachel Garret was killed off. She was proof that strong females don't have to lose their femininity in order to be formidable.

In closing, I'd just like to thank those who have supported and helped me with my new ST club, the USS Tianamen in Kirkcaldy (shameless plug!) at IDIC, KAG and URS Discovery. Thanks, guys.

Liz Caldwell - Penrhindendraeth, Gwynedd

Concerning the debate about the different species of Klingons in Classic Trek and the movies/TNG. If Chang in ST VI had had hair he'd look almost exactly like a classic Trek Klingon. So perhaps the 'original' Klingons are still around but are no longer as dominant as the bumpy-headed ones. Perhaps he's an intermediate stage.

I think I must be one of the few people who liked True Q - although I did wonder why the Q didn't simply take away Amanda's powers at the start like they have done in the past. I then thought that perhaps the Q didn't do so because they *wanted* her to join them. Perhaps they wanted her with her powers intact because she had lived as a Human, and as we have seen in previous episodes, the Q are fascinated by Humans. Perhaps they hoped she could bring to them an understanding of the Human morality and philosophy which they seem to be so curious about.

This still doesn't explain, however, why if Amanda chose to be Human, they couldn't just take her powers off her then instead of threatening to kill her - unless the threat was designed to force her into joining the Q. This doesn't seem likely though, because they apparently would have killed her without warning if Picard had not told

her first.

On to DS9: Captive Pursuit is the best episode I've seen so far. The feel of it is more like a TNG episode - probably because it featured O'Brien so much, but also because the crew spent less time yelling at each other and more time co-operating. I know the creators wanted to introduce conflict between the characters, but it can be a bit wearing. There's enough conflict around today as it is! I think the lack of conflict between the main characters in the original series and TNG is part of their appeal.

On a rather more trivial note - does anyone else find Major Kira's hairstyle too 1990s-ish? She looks like she's just walked out of our local High Street Cut-and-Blow Salon! Mind you, Worf used to do so too - thank goodness he's got a ponytail at last!

I've now seen the episode Dax and it did answer a lot of my questions about the Trill. I'm still curious to know, however, how a creature that apparently needs some kind of complicated medical procedure to change hosts could have evolved naturally.

Questions

Dave Brown - The titles of some episodes have been puzzling me for some time, maybe someone can shed some light on it.

The ones that beat me are:

Original Trek - Bread and Circuses
TNG - Up the Long Ladder
Q-Pid

Gill - I noticed in the last newsletter that someone was requesting Star Trek software. I'm not a computer buff myself, but I think that it is a bit dodgy asking for computer software unless it's 'public domain'?

[Janet: We just have to assume that anyone offering items for sale is offering original or second-hand merchandise, or in the case of computer software it could also be their own or PD software and clip art. Regarding wanted ads - as I said earlier, there is no harm in asking for goods but we do not encourage

people to request pirate copies of any merchandise where the original is available. For example we will not knowingly print requests for photocopies of 'in print' zines or for pirate copies of professional videos. 'Copy' is actually an ambiguous word. When you are asking for a copy of a book you are usually talking about an 'original'. All we can do is accept adverts in good faith.]

A C Harris - Warrington

Could anybody tell me about the gentleman who was on Radio City (Liverpool) who claims to have learned how to speak Klingon? I believe he has asked for Star Trek fans to get in touch if they too want to learn to speak Klingon. I believe he lives somewhere in Wrexham.

Can you help?

Chris Coxon - If I say "The Starpost" does that immediately get the backs up of any fellow IDIC members? - I have been billed for \$200 for \$164 worth of goods I ordered on the

7th of January and as of 14th April I still have nothing. I thought Intergalactic were rustic in their approach to business - these fellahs are unbelievable. If you've seen their full colour ads in various Starlog Mags you'd think great - these people look good. Beware, friends; two international phone calls, being billed for an order that had been cancelled, then billed again without authorisation - has convinced me that these people should have some exposure in British fandom - not good exposure at that - they are Messers Starpost - The of P.O. Box 3002, Bridgeton, MO 63044, U.S.A.

Like minded souls please gather round - I want to send a petition to Starlog magazines to make them put pressure on people like The Starpost to make them live up to what they claim in their adverts. Please write to me if you wish to help - Chris Coxon, Westway, Rectory Lane, Winchelsea, East Sussex, TN36 4EY.

☆☆☆☆

WARP ONE - SELECTED GUEST TALKS

Reported by Karen Sparks and Helen White

MARINA SIRTIS

Reported by Karen

"AS I SAID WHEN I WAS STROKING
PATRICK'S THIGH...."

Anybody expecting Marina to be as demure and softly spoken as Troi was in for a major surprise! On the Saturday, she wore red - and not much of it - but if I had a figure and legs like that, I wouldn't cover it up either! Sunday's outfit was something similar in black, and on both days she wore high heels and her Tottenham Hotspur watch! She has a definite cockney accent and was more than capable of keeping 1600+ fans under control.

The guest of honour entered the hall to roaring applause and wolf whistles, and continuous camera flashes. Dazzled, she declared she was in danger of falling off the

stage and having an undignified picture appear in the next day's News of the World, so she obligingly posed in silly positions for a few minutes to satisfy the photographers, then asked (told!) them to stop.

She began her talk saying she is the Con Queen of TNG, and then checking that the people at the front couldn't see up her dress(!). She promised, "I'll tell you anything you want to know but don't write to the other actors and tell them!" She related two occasions where this had happened - one about Patrick's now infamous apple sandwiches (which, now that he's a "Frenchman" he makes with croissants!) and one where Marina told LeVar that Geordi shouldn't go to Guinan for advice on his love life - after all, she's hundreds of years old, so when was the last time she did it?

Originally, Marina said Troi was meant to be the Brains, not the Babe of the show -

but in Hollywood if you have a chest, you can't have brains. When Denise and Gates left TNG, she was told she would have to be the sex symbol and needed to lose weight. Over the years, Marina has been trying to reinstate Troi's brains - and reckons she has had better episodes since her cleavage has been covered up a bit more! She objected to the episode "Disaster" where Lt-Cdr Troi became captain for a day but didn't know anything, whereas Ensign Ro not only knew what was wrong, but knew how to fix it - and she has only got one pip!

Troi's accent came under discussion. Marina related the story of how she originally auditioned for the role of Tasha Yar (she thought the best thing about this part would have been being Worf's boss - it would drive Michael Dorn mad!). The producers told her Troi couldn't be British as the captain was. She was in no position at that time to say what she thought, which was, "Well, he's meant to be French, why can't he do the accent?" She also wanted to know why all the other Betazoids on the show have American accents. The producers told her Troi's came from her father! Marina said she has gradually made her character sound less foreign, and reckons she's now about two thirds of the way across the Atlantic - by end of Season 7 she might be in Oklahoma!

If we ever hear that Marina has left the show, she entreats everyone to write lots of letters to Paramount to get her back - she would never leave voluntarily so it would mean she'd been fired. She wouldn't mind being killed off, she told us conspiratorially, as we all know that being dead in Star Trek doesn't mean that you can't come back! She added, "How old do you have to be before you're retired by Starfleet?" and when some wit responded, "Ask Guinan," she retorted, "Try not to be funnier than the guest!"

Season 6 is Troi's best season. Her major episode "Face of the Enemy" was top of the ratings for the season, and everyone is telling her it is her best work to date. In it, she informed us proudly, Troi gets a phaser and tricorder, goes on an away team, and even becomes an expert on the Romulans

with lots of "techno-babble" to deliver. Of all Troi's episodes, Marina prefers her Season 2 opener, "The Child". During the first season she reckoned Troi cried in just about every episode - too much pain and agony. She particularly enjoys episodes where Troi becomes possessed by some alien force "Who's in my body today? Oh good, it's Entity Week!"

Costumes were discussed at length. Everyone was unimpressed by Troi's "cosmic cheerleader" outfit of "Encounter at Farpoint" - but at least some of the men wore it too! Marina thinks it's in the actors' contracts that the costumes must be uncomfortable! She said she was "too lumpy" for the regular "spandex space-suit" so had others designed for her. She liked best the turquoise dress, even though she wore a boned corset beneath it "as we are wrinkle free in the 24th century", and says that like most women, she doesn't mind a bit of discomfort if the end result is worth it. However, between E. at F. and by the 6th season episode "Chain of Command", Marina had lost 20 lbs, and looks much better in the regular uniform. Holodeck stories are playtime for the cast, dressing up episodes which are usually great fun to do - apart from her Victorian costume in "Time's Arrow" which was horribly hot. Marina mentioned tackling Patrick on the subject of his suede uniform jacket, saying if they don't eat meat in the 24th century, they shouldn't wear it either - he told her it was fake and to shut up! She spoke fondly of her "Industrial strength regulation Starfleet Brassiere" which is the envy of all the female guest stars - "They look at Marina's chest, and then they look at Troi's....!"

Marina related some wonderful backstage stories of the cast messing around on set, including: the last time Troi said, "Captain, he's hiding something," Patrick responded, "We know that, you stupid woman, you waste of space", and then went to hide behind Brent for protection; Picard taking 15 minutes to die ("all that RSC training"); Patrick climbing on the command chair to hit LeVar on the head, and LeVar constantly threatening to break an egg over Patrick's head. She said TNG is the happiest set she has ever worked on, and a first season

director refused to come back after two episodes because the cast were too rowdy - whereupon Marina looked all wide-eyed and innocent and said, "And that was the FIRST season!"

A question was asked about Skeluggy (not sure of the spelling - it's Greek!), Marina's Yorkshire Terrier which she takes to work sometimes. She said Patrick talks to him in a Yorkshire accent so it can understand him, and she came off set one day to find Brent putting the dog into the microwave (switched off, before you all write to complain!). Another day Michael Dorn picked it up, held it above his head, and called, "Jonathan, take it long," (an American football term, for any uninitiated Brits). On the subject of sport, she said she winds up "The Boys" (her affectionate, collective noun for the male cast members) by telling them the baseball games they're so keen on are really only rounders and she used to play that at school, and that Rugby League is American Football for real men!

In a rare serious moment, Marina said that Troi may be predictable and always understanding, but she is not dull. She would like to inject more of Marina into her but can't now without spoiling the integrity of the character, and the producers don't like it if she tries to add more humour. "TNG may be a 24th century show but it's written by 20th century men." She feels that, "Strength is not about shouting - you don't have to be loud to be strong," and believes that in this respect both Troi and Beverly Crusher are strong characters. "Empathy is what separates Troi from Marina." She has adopted Patrick's maxim of trying to find something new for the character in each episode. "What would Troi do on the holodeck?" someone asked. Marina had asked the writers this herself, and they had no idea. She wants it to be something wild and unexpected as unlike Troi as possible - definitely NOT archery, which was Rick Berman's best suggestion!

Marina was named after one of her grandmothers - luckily not the other one who had a totally unpronounceable Greek name. She was brought up as a Greek, even to the

point of her parents arranging a marriage for her at 19, which she firmly rejected. Her parents were very much against her acting career but it was all she ever wanted to do and she thinks now they have finally come to terms with it. If she had to choose an alternative career, she thought maybe a lawyer - which she sees as acting in a courtroom.

Acting life before TNG was asked about and mentioned briefly, saying like many actors, she took any job she could get. She remembered doing a horrible "Snow White" panto in Doncaster primarily for being afflicted with dreadful coldsores, and Faye Dunaway's dress in "The Wicked Lady" standing up to the flogging much better than hers did.

On the subject of Being A Star, Marina said if the ladder of stardom is as tall as a person, she is about ankle level. When at a con in Las Vegas recently with Brent, Patrick and Jonathan, she realised what they go through in terms of being recognised everywhere, and is relieved not to have the same problem - Marina's fringe makes a surprising amount of difference to Troi's features, and it is usually her voice which fans identify before her face.

"Who didn't know I'm married?" Marina asked, then, "Who's disappointed I'm married?" (Huge roars from audience!) Asked to describe her wedding, Marina said her husband cried buckets but she didn't at all. She hired a wedding planner to arrange everything and had a lovely surprise when she arrived at the (Orthodox Greek) church and saw all the flowers etc. for the first time. The National Enquirer made up a story about her being in tears because Whoopi Goldberg wasn't there but Marina had known all along that she wouldn't be as she was working elsewhere. However, Whoopi's mother believed the story she read and told her off for being so mean - so Whoopi sent Marina 6 boxes of tissues tied with a yellow ribbon to mop up the excess tears! The wedding cake was tiered strawberry shortcake (apparently no-one likes fruit cake in the States - you give it to people you don't like!) Marina's wedding inspired LeVar to finally tie the knot with his

lady - he asked Marina's advice about arrangements and used her wedding planner - but couldn't trust her enough and still ended up doing all the work himself.

Non-TNG activities include admiring and polishing their Harley Davidson 850 cc bike - although they don't ride it any more since Peter broke his leg in an accident on it. She enjoys rock music, especially watching her husband's band, PFR, and also likes Bon Jovi. She recently had dinner with Adam Faith who is in LA to do a show called "Alfie" which he wants her to be in. Cast members used to sometimes watch Jonathan playing his trombone in a jazz bar on Tuesday nights if they weren't working the next day.

Marina used to read Tarot cards, and as an adolescent, had foretelling dreams. One which she related was of seeing a newspaper headline about the birth of Siamese twins, joined at the abdomen, and the next day it actually happened. Marina's first priorities on arriving in the UK earlier in the week were to have a decent chicken curry, and a Girl's Night with her friends, discussing boys, make-up, state of the world, "HOW big?" and all the other things that girls know about! She does miss the UK and finds LA a boring city with nothing to do but shop and eat, and then have to work out to get rid of it. Michael and Marina work out together, and they have a trainer "because it's Hollywood", and when Michael is showing off his muscles, she taunts him that her triceps are better than his!

When asked if Troi gets wound up by Riker "putting it about a bit", she said Jonathan once told her Troi was nearly as bad - but she reckons that Troi is only on about four and a half (not counting the arranged marriage) whereas Riker is well into double figures. The producers regret that the two characters ever had a relationship because it interferes with Riker being the stud of the galaxy. Marina and Jonathan planned a spin-off series called, "Rikers in Space," a half hour sitcom where wacky Uncle Data could come to play with the kids....

Marina talked about the long hours all the cast work, and says she chooses to wear a

wig (her own hair is about half the volume of her character's) so that they can do her hair before she arrives on the lot - this means she can get up at 4.30 am instead of 3.30 am! Michael Dorn has pointed out that whenever Troi faints, her hair always spreads out perfectly on the ground - Marina says it's an art! In retaliation, Marina refers to the newly pony-tailed Worf as Hiawatha! Mentioning the way Deanna's and Beverly's hair keeps growing, Marina wonders if they have a Hair Replicator on the Enterprise. Every other Saturday is "Beauty Day" because as we all know, Troi always looks perfect and Betazoids don't get zits!

Asked about what it's like to kiss Jonathan, Marina said, "I must say our boys have the softest lips in Hollywood - and I should know, I've kissed them all" - then added hastily, "All our boys, I mean, not all of Hollywood!" At a recent con, in Detroit, Michael Dorn expressed the opinion that Worf should share Troi with Riker! Marina has an obvious soft spot for Brent, talking of him with particular affection. "All the boys," she complained laughing, "are relentless in their ridicule of me."

Asked about being directed by the other actors, Marina said Jonathan is everyone's favourite. Patrick, while delightful, they find a little daunting because he is such a brilliant actor. For "A Fistful of Datas" Michael Dorn taught her how to hold a gun, and berated her, "You're holding it like a girl," to which she replied, "I AM a girl," and he retaliated, "You're supposed to be Clint Eastwood!"

Past Trek - Marina was disappointed not to have worked with Leonard Nimoy on "Unification", and says her scenes with Jimmy Doohan on "Relics" were cut due to the script over-running. Future Trek - Terry Farrell, who stars in DS9, is a close friend of hers, and Marina says she is delighted that through that show, there will still be Trek for years to come.

Marina closed her Sunday speech by saying TNG is the best thing that's ever happened in her life, and thanked all the fans for making it possible - she said without us,

she would have no house, car or job and owes us everything.

I feel that this report has in no way done justice to Marina's two hours on stage. The lady was funny and honest and was one of the most entertaining Trek guests I have been privileged to see.

Siddig El Fadil

Edited Report by Helen

Saturday talk

[NB Siddig's two talks contain references to and descriptions of DS9 episodes; but nothing which gives the plot away.]

Siddig El Fadil plays Doctor Julian Bashir in Deep Space Nine.

Siddig came on stage to loud applause and what looked like a million flash bulbs all going off at once. Having been introduced by Marina (Sirtis) he began by saying that "anything she said about DS9 that isn't complimentary isn't true." He admitted that he was extremely nervous, and said that he didn't have a monologue or anything, so we could ask questions, "and if I don't know the answer I'll lie!" Before the questions, he told us that he was born in Sudan, North Africa in 1965 and his family moved to England when he was three years old. He's done a couple of shows and some pantomime in England, then went to America nine months ago.

The first question was whether Warp One was his first convention, and how far on in the series was DS9 now? Siddig said that this was his fifth con, although the first in the UK. The first season has finished filming now, and contains eighteen episodes, although "it's not officially out yet, is it?" He then started to tell us that he played the doctor, who.... and we all had a good laugh; he's obviously heard about pirate videos already....

The doctor is based on himself at age nineteen or twenty; although he, like Siddig, is actually twenty-seven. Siddig said that Doctor Bashir isn't too much like him - "he's a

bit of a plonker really in the first few episodes." There was much laughter at this, and more when he said that he reckoned that the character is a cross between a young Omar Sharif and Rodney!

The next questioner asked how much influence Siddig had had on his character; a fair amount, he said. He definitely didn't want to be a 'Hollywood young man in a show' as in Baywatch, and much preferred something "a bit crazy"; besides this, the producers wanted someone a bit "off the wall". He stuttered a lot at the audition because he was absolutely terrified - he was in front of 15 to 20 Paramount men-in-suits "looking bored" - and they loved it!

He was asked whether he'd realised what he was getting into - ie fandom- when he joined the cast of DS9, and how had he prepared?

He said that the best preparation was no preparation - he'd never experienced anything like fandom before. He said that everyone was very welcoming; it was like the new kid on the block coming into an established family.

Had he seen any Trek before coming into DS9, wondered the next person.

He saw the original series when he was young, then TNG on and off a couple of years ago, but he said that it was very badly publicised by the BBC - "it's as if they don't give a *%*%" This comment met with loud applause.

He was asked whether he'd like to see a series based on Starfleet Academy; "oh yes, that was the original idea. Not really - I quite like DS9" (laughter). He said that nobody really needed a string of "young American actors doing young American acting."

"What's it like working with Brent?" (Siddig guested in the two-part TNG episode Birthright).

He said that it was great, terrific, and that Brent was the funniest guy ever; had he been to a con in the UK? When we all told

him no, he said that we had to get him here! We endeavoured to explain the situation; whereupon he said that he'd been talking to Brent, who'd said that he'd love to come (con committees please note) and that he, Siddig, would try to persuade him further....

The next person wondered whether the studio had wanted him to do an accent (rather than sticking with his own, which is exactly as he sounds on the show)? He said that they'd originally wanted him to do an Arabic accent; he'd done a film in which he played an Arab and could do a 'cod Arabic' accent. He did the audition "like Anthony Quinn" (he demonstrated, much to our amusement) but ended up with his own accent, which the Americans apparently love.

"Are you married?" A stunned pause followed this question....

"Would you like to be?" There was much laughter at this, and "I'd love to be, if I can find anyone to take me."

"Does that mean that you'd like to 'bonk the bimbo of the week'?" was the next question. He said that he'd been asked before when he would 'get off with' Dax - "not in my lifetime!"

The next person wondered, after the previous question, whether he saw himself as another William Riker or James Kirk? He replied that he didn't see himself as a "Willy Kirk or James Riker" (oops!) and the studio could do whatever they liked with him.

The following question stayed on the subject; as Odo can't 'do' a humanoid nose or ears properly, can he do, um, certain other bits accurately, and as O'Brien always has his head in some machine, what did he think of Dr B's chances with Dax? Dax is the worst nightmare in the world, he said; she's been a man three times, for a start, and "the last thing she wants is a snivelling little man saying, 'how about it?'"

At last, a different topic: "any chance of a more exciting theme tune?" Siddig asked whether anyone was able to hum it; there was laughter at this, and more when it turned

out that no one, including himself, was! He thought that the Powers That Be may change it for the second season.

He was asked whether season one ended with a cliffhanger, and answered that it didn't; it's a good episode about war criminals and "all that stuff."

The next person told Siddig that we were all very proud that he was British and in Star Trek, and would he please talk nicely to the other ST Brits and get them to come over; he said that he would. He told us that Patrick is coming over to do a West End play - "he's 'Mr Hunk' in the USA!" The questioner asked him to be sure not to forget us all, and he swore that he wouldn't.

Would he like to see the Borg coming to DS9? He'd love to, but doesn't know what they'd do about it as the station is a sitting duck; someone in the audience suggested calling the Enterprise in to help!

Was he happy with his character so far, and what direction would he like to go in the second season, apart from Dax's bedroom?! He'd like to see the doctor become a bit more fey, and wants to be credible as a doctor; he wants people to feel safe in his hands. He will get 'tougher' and less naive; he'll mature, "but not too much!"

The next person said that there had been rumours that some of the cast weren't happy with their characters; was this true? As far as he knows everyone is fine, and Avery (Brooks - Sisko) likes fighting anyway. He said that they all had to be careful to keep up Gene's vision; the series was originally to have been "like Blade Runner", and Siddig thought that Gene would have turned in his grave at that.

Would he like to transfer to the Enterprise? He's been once (Birthright) and enjoyed it, but he likes DS9 and isn't "outranked by other doctors." He thought that he'd get on fine with Bev; neither likes naive people, nor do they suffer fools gladly.

The next person asked whether he got on with the other actors, and what they all

got up to on the set; he replied that they haven't been going long enough to hate each other! There aren't really any 'funny stories' yet, as the most that's happened is that someone has got embarrassed; however, in the early days of filming they were still shooting at 3 am one Friday, when 'Good Morning, Good Morning,' (the song) suddenly began. It was Patrick, Jonathan and Brent laughing at them! Siddig said that they do get recognised occasionally now; he had a story about that. The cast went out for dinner, and Siddig and Nana Visitor (Kira) got one of their friends to come in while they were all eating. The friend went straight up to Armin Shimerman (Quark, ie heavy Ferengi make-up) and went, "hey, Armin Shimerman!", then glanced round at all the others and walked out! Armin was thoroughly pleased. They haven't told him yet....

Has Doctor Bashir figured out how all the equipment works? Yes, said Siddig; he knows his stuff. He's been to the Academy, and knows the 'extras', such as how to drive a runabout.

Had he had any problems in the US due to being of Arabic origin? He hadn't, but then most people over there see him as British; the US in general is more laid back on that particular subject, and he's had more problems in the UK.

(Inaudible question re where Bashir is from) - Siddig said that he keeps asking Rick (Berman) and the latter says that he doesn't know! Apparently he started off as Greek, but Siddig reckons that he could be from India, Asia or any of the Mediterranean countries.

How much leeway does he have to develop his character? "I can do anything I like as long as I say the lines exactly and get the moves exactly right."! Even in Babel when they all end up speaking gibberish they all had to say the exact lines and not just the first thing that came into their head.

How does he cope with technobabble? "I just say it fast and try and smile and leave quickly!"

Does he have anything planned for the three month break from filming? No; but he'd like to work over here. He thinks that LA is horrid - all 'undeeep', and that it has 'eaten' a lot of actors. Siddig is used to Tooting, and there are no markets or Indian restaurants in LA.

Odo being apparently unique, would Doctor Bashir like to get him 'under the knife'? Yes, he would, but Odo has no time for the doctor; having said that, Siddig thought that they might get one "soon". There's a first season episode called Vortex in which a stone is found that has 'Odo-stuff' on it; Doctor B thinks that it could perhaps be Odo's cousin or something.

(Inaudible question) - a lot of Brits in LA club together; "they can all be pompous together." There actually aren't that many Brits in LA at the moment, although both Gary Oldman and Amanda Donahoe are over there. Siddig says that there's a British cricket club in LA that asks what school you attended before you are permitted to join!

Does he think that the success of DS9 is due to the tie-in with TNG? "Yes, absolutely," although they do like to be slightly different. He thinks it a great shame that anyone over here who wants to see DS9 will have either to buy a satellite dish or the videos; "the blame rests at the BBC's doorstep."

The next person wanted to know what 'anal retentive' means (Siddig had used the term in a previous answer). Siddig said that while he wasn't anti-American - "they're a great bunch generally" - some of them got 'anal' about seeing psychiatrists and similar matters. He said that the term means "unwilling to let go"; this definition caused plenty of laughter.

Are the cast happy with their uniforms? He said that they were; they're more comfortable than the early TNG outfits, although they have straps under the shoes so the wearer has to 'ease up gently' from a squatting to a standing position. He demonstrated this last, to more laughter.

What's his favourite episode so far? Captive Pursuit, which is "a great episode."

What are his hobbies and interests? He enjoys the theatre, and used to ride a lot, although he doesn't have time for either these days; he still reads, though.

(SPOILER ALERT; the following paragraph) The next person referred to an earlier topic of Marina's ('entity of the week') and asked whether Siddig had enjoyed that aspect of The Passenger? He said that he had, but that he'd only got the script the day before shooting, and had very little notice that he needed to behave "totally differently." He ended up speaking in a very low voice and then looping the dialogue over it afterwards.

The Odo and Bashir scene in Emissary is a mirror of a scene from MASH: The Movie; was that deliberate? Siddig thought that it probably was; so far, there's been 'bits' of The Great Escape, Sneakers and "John Wayne films". Also, Rene Auberjonois (Odo) was in MASH: The Movie.

Was he disappointed that Ensign Ro hadn't made it over to DS9? "Yeah, she was great", although he likes Dax, and she wouldn't have been there had Ro come on the show. (He may actually have meant Kira rather than Dax). The audience generally seemed to feel the same about this.

(Inaudible question) - Siddig went to Lawrence College in Ramsgate; "everyone sends their kids there to make out that they're public school kids."

What do his parents think of his success? They're over the moon, especially as his father's been out of work. Siddig has a small brother, Jonathan, who's eleven years old; he was allowed onto the sets, although he was told several times not to go to a particular place. He did; he broke his arm.... Apparently he wants to be an actor too.

With reference to 'never work with children or animals', what was it like working with Cirroc Lofton (Jake Sisko) and the other kids on the show? Siddig said that

it's incredible; Cirroc isn't like a child when he's working. However, during The Storyteller, O'Brien (Colm Meaney) was supposed to be entertaining a baby; to get the baby to look interested in what was going on Siddig had to stand behind Colm and "be stupid". He's also had to work with emus; he said that there were people with poop-scoops running all over the place.... His final comment was that most of the children were more professional than the adult cast! In one episode (Move Along Home) there was an eight-year-old who had to dance; she continued for six hours.

Is he frightened of being typecast? Not really; he said that you can't help it, to a certain extent. He won't be very worried until he doesn't get work, then he'll be really angry!

How did he like doing the dancing in Move Along Home? Siddig said that it was very boring; Nana (Visitor) was "totally pissed off and looked it". One day they were still filming at 2am, and "it was a nightmare.

(Inaudible question about how Bashir behaves under pressure) - Siddig said that the doctor was cool in a crisis; he doesn't want him to be a useless doctor.

Some of the TNG cast have now directed episodes; would he like to direct a DS9 episode? He'd love to, but they've only just finished the first season, so he has to wait and 'earn his stripes'. "I've got my beady little eyes on it!"

How involved is Siddig in the part of Bashir? He said that he'd like to think that he's "completely in there." The set is bigger than the room we were in (and that was enormous - see my con report for details) and is all built completely - ie you can sit on all the chairs, etc - so it's very easy to get into character when you're on the set.

His character is very similar to Dirk Bogarde in Doctor in the House; is that intentional? Siddig hasn't actually seen the film, and there's certainly "no conscious 'Dirk Bogardery' going on."

The next person wondered how Siddig felt about moves to decrease violence and increase censorship on television. Siddig said that he felt that Trek has a good record, and is only violent when it needs to be; they're very careful, so he's not too worried. He said that the problem with violence in a show is that if you get it happening too often people go and see the show just for that violence.

The next person wanted to know when the DS9 cast would get 'decent-sized trailers?' (ie dressing rooms - see Marina's talks). "When the other guys go!" said Siddig. He said that there were lots of plots to 'get rid of them', and they do things like walking into Patrick's trailer and saying, "is that stereo yours?" and "that'll have to go!"

(Question which I cannot decipher my notes for (!) re DS9 being 'far left') - a lot of the audience clearly thought that DS9 is more like original Trek than TNG in that there's more 'going on' between characters. Siddig said that yes, it is pretty close to the original series that way, but that it's not intentional: the series has to evolve and take a few risks, otherwise we may as well just watch reruns the whole time - that's partly why they have different people there, eg Odo. He said that fans in the US had been worried that DS9 would be 'too black', which it isn't.

Is there enough space for TNG and DS9 together, or is Paramount going to cut one off? Siddig said that there's space for both; both are top of the ratings, so Paramount is making twice as much money.

That was the final question for Saturday's session.

Sunday talk

NB The occasional question was a repeat of Saturday's; I have omitted these unless Siddig added something to the original answer.

Siddig again came onstage to the accompaniment of hundreds of flash bulbs going off and tumultuous applause.

He began by pointing out to us that we were probably saying that he wasn't Michael

Dorn (who was to have been a guest but had to drop out; Siddig replaced him) - well, it was just lots of make-up! He said that he was "completely nervous", especially as he couldn't 'charm us' just by being English; he said that if he 'dries' at an American con he can just say (very British accent) "oh dear" and they all think it's wonderful! He said that he wasn't like the stars of original Trek and TNG "who all have a monologue or something" and told us that we were all far more experts on Trek than he; he repeated yesterday's comment that "if I don't know the answer, I'll just lie," which still got plenty of laughs.

The first person asked how Siddig got into acting; he said that as a boy he was "dragged along to theatres," and then went to stage school. At this point he noticed the large back-projection screen behind him that was being used 'live' so that people at the back of the hall weren't just looking at a teeny speck on the stage; "ooh, that's really weird!" (laughter) "I feel like Madonna!" (even more laughter) He then returned to the question; he originally wanted to direct but there were no Arabs in the UK who wanted to act, so he did that. He was in Big Battalions, which he hadn't actually seen "but I think it's very dull."

The next person wondered whether there were any problems with other actors in the US; Siddig said that there was a bit of one in that he was, so to speak, taking a job from an American actor. At this point he tangled himself up in the microphone wire, then pretended it was all on purpose and swung the mike around by said wire. Returning to the question, he said that it was hard to get a job in Hollywood anyway, and he didn't want to give a bad impression of British actors to the Americans, although they tend to think that all Brits are classical actors like Patrick anyway.

Has he done any professional singing? "No, and if you'd seen DS9 you'd know why!" (laughter)

Siddig said that he'd only been in the US for nine months so it was still exciting; talking of which, he said that he hasn't got

used to the American tendency to be very enthusiastic about anything and everything, eg (him) "yes, I'll come to lunch." (US person) "oh, we're so excited!" (him) "why?!"

Someone then asked where his accent was from, as it sounded very 'yuppie'. He agreed that it was, and said that it was probably from schools; his stepfather is "very British" (imitates Queen's English) and his mum is from Bridlington. He went to Bowsfield (stage school) in London and picked up a 'bad accent', so his mum moved him to a different school.

Next up was someone who wanted to have an acting career; had he any advice? Siddig said that the first thing to do was go to acting school, as it's "the best way of getting anywhere." He then demonstrated his audition technique for tapdancing and kicked the strip light assembly at the front of the stage, fortunately not damaging it (especially as one light unit thing costs over £200, eek).

The next person asked whether Siddig intended to keep his beard (it suits him very well). He said that he'd love to but that he didn't think that it would go down very well, especially as Riker first got his beard in second season TNG; also, the studio doesn't want Doctor B to look older, which Siddig does with the beard.

Were there any problems with differences in pronunciation between English and American English? Siddig said that they don't mind generally, although some words are very definitely pronounced one way in the UK and the other in the US; eg Dayta, Dahta, and staisis, stassiss. Apparently Patrick put his foot down over Data: (very good imitation) "goddammit, we're going to call him Dayta, not Dahta!"

How did Siddig get the part of Doctor B? Siddig started off by admiring the questioner's DS9 uniform, making him stand up, etc, and only then answered the question! He was in Dangerous Man, Rick Berman saw his performance and decided that he wanted Siddig in DS9. He still had to do an audition, but he was 'chosen' first.

When Americans play someone English, do they produce an 'idealised version'? "Oh yeah," said Siddig. Americans doing Brits are usually laughable - and probably vice versa - they usually like to take the piss, eg 'jolly good show', but then Patrick appeared and it stopped a great deal.

When Patrick was on the radio (the previous Thursday pm on Radio 1, or 1FM as I suppose we have to call it now) he'd said that he was stocking up on cricket videos to take back to the US; would Siddig be doing that too? He said that he hadn't thought of it; it was a good idea and "very Patrick". He didn't think that he would, but he thought that it would be fun to take some snooker videos to bemuse the Americans - "this is on TV at prime time!"

He was then asked who in DS9 he'd like to play if he wasn't playing Doctor B; he said, "Commander Sisko, ha ha". He said that he thought that he had the best part for him, as it was great fun; then he said that he'd like to be Quark - "or Butthead, as we call him!"

Do British stage schools prepare actors for television work? Siddig said that they try to prepare their pupils for anything, although they tend to make said pupils rather over-the-top and they then have to learn to be a little more subtle. (At this point, the microphone decided to play up and there were horrible feedback squeals; Siddig handed the mike to the Pontins chap, saying that "it's the Cardassians.")

He then took his name badge off and waved it at us, informing us that he'd been given it so that we'd know who he was! He then said that it must have been a bit of a 'shotgun wedding' for some people; coming to the con and seeing fifteen episodes in two days (although it wasn't actually quite that many).

There was then a lull in the questions, so Siddig pretended that he was leaving and we all laughed.

Somebody then got in quickly with their question and asked whether he'd seen any of the con yet; he said that he hadn't, but

that he'd go and see the dealers room later - "I'll go and have a quick poke...." He then realised what he'd said (he couldn't help it; we were all giggling insanely) and added that, "well, it is Pontins, isn't it?" Needless to say we all laughed more at this.

Would he like to play an alien character on TNG? Yes!

We're told that the video release of Emissary (the pilot) is extended; did Siddig know anything about this? "Wow, more of that 'linear' stuff!" He said that he didn't understand that when he saw the script but thought that he'd be okay when he saw the episode in its finished state; he wasn't. He said that the long version was shown first in the US, then when it was repeated it was the shorter version, so anyone in the UK that's seen the pilot has quite probably seen the longer one. However, "there might be a bit more floating around in the wormhole...."

Following a question about the number of episodes, he repeated yesterday's answer that there were eighteen so far and that his favourite was Captive Pursuit; he then told us story about the latter. The lizard-creature in the episode has "wonderful yellow eyes", and during the rehearsals didn't have the lenses in. Siddig had to look at the lizard and react; they rehearsed this several times and then went for a take. Naturally the lizard now put his lenses in; Siddig hadn't been expecting them and it gave him "a hell of a shock!" He also said that he'd had to get used to having a cup of tea with people who look like "a thumb with hairs on."

Did Doctor B ever get his phaser practice? That was a joke on Odo because he hates anyone having a phaser on the Promenade; it would have worked better but it was cut too quickly into the next shot.

Would Siddig like to play a villain? He said that he would; he sort of did in The Passenger, although he was more a 'pseudo-villain' there. He doesn't think that he'll get to be a villain or an alien unless he's "possessed or fired"!

Who are his favourite characters in

other Trek? Siddig said that in original Trek his favourite is Scotty - he's great. He said that we should all try and see him at a con, as "he'll make you laugh until your sides hurt." In TNG his favourite is Data, although he likes Picard too. He got the chance to work on TNG (Birthright yet again) and said that Brent made him rock with laughter the whole time.

How does he cope with having to learn all those lines? He said that he learns them as soon as possible after he gets the script; you just have to learn them as you go and it's a bore. He said that Brent is always word-perfect - "like a computer brain!"

Are the DS9 sets as they appear? Once he'd discerned exactly what the question meant, he described all the sets, eg the Promenade stage: the Med Lab is off the Prom, Security is off the Prom, "a MacDonald's place" is off the Prom, etc etc. The second stage contains Ops, the loading areas and the crew quarters, and the third is all off-station sets plus planets.

How big is the model of the station itself? Siddig didn't know for sure but thought that it was about 10 to 15 feet tall - "kind of huge." At the DS9/TNG wrap party there were two huge (six feet tall) ice sculptures, one of DS9 and the other of the Enterprise; they were all laying bets as to which would melt first!

Where does the lift on the Ops set lead to? Nowhere really, it's just like being under a stage, but it does actually descend so it's great fun.

Has Siddig done much Shakespeare? He said that he'd done some "way back"; his favourite role is Benedict in Much Ado About Nothing. Most of his work has been for television.

If he wasn't an actor what would he do? Siddig didn't think that he had any talent for anything else, although he'd like to be a director. He's worked in bars, and he was an insurance salesman for a month once; he sold cover to his mother and himself only, so was fired!

How's he getting on with the doors on DS9? (This was a reference to shots from the bloopers reels, in which doors fail to open on cue and people walk into them). Not bad; he does, however, fall off things a lot - stools, beds, stages - and in Q-less where Q was making him yawn and back out of the room, he ended up falling down the steps.

Will there be a blooper reel for DS9? "Oh, definitely!" Siddig said that he hoped that we'd all get to see it too.

Does any of the DS9 cast have any pet hates yet (as with the TNG cast and the jumpsuits)? Armin Shimerman (Quark) has to come in at 3am every day for makeup, which puts a sting on his social life; Rene (Auberjonois - Odo) has much the same thing. Colm Meaney doesn't like technobabble (here Siddig did a very funny impression of Colm.)

What's Siddig's own schedule? He has to get in to work at 6am, and is made up ready to start work at 6.30 to 7am. Once he's there they usually film for twelve hours, although they have run over up to midnight. He doesn't have to be in every day, though, and they all get an hour off for lunch. Filming involves a great deal of hanging about.

If Siddig had a time machine, where would he go; past or future? "Woo! I've got to say the future, haven't I?" although he'd love to see the premiere of Hamlet. He said that he wouldn't be surprised to see a lot of ST stuff become reality; Mike Okuda is in with all sorts of major organisations, eg NASA.

Does Siddig believe that there are other beings in the universe? Yes; he supposed that it was a bit of a nutty idea but "having been to LA...." (much applause at this) On one hand it seems pretty unlikely, on the other it seems very arrogant to believe that there aren't. "Stephen Hawking believes in them and he's quite bright." (more laughter)

Which superhero would Siddig like to be? The audience reply to this was 'Riker!' Siddig said that he used to want to be

Superman, but now he'd be The Incredible Elastic Man.

Is there any part in DS9 that he wouldn't like to do, and why? He said that he wouldn't like to play Dax; the part's a big deal and he doesn't think that he'd enjoy it. "I'm much happier trying to get off with her!"

"I'm off to the bar for a drink; would you like one?" (The bar was at the back of the hall). "Oh, thanks." (If anyone's interested, he had half a pint of bitter).

Why is Quark sometimes referred to as 'Quork'? Siddig said that he didn't know, although the studio is usually very strict about things like that. "I think it's Quark - that's what I say!"

Had Siddig any secrets that he could tell us about his co-stars? At the moment they're not close enough for him to be able to "infiltrate and get all the dirt!" Nana (Visitor - Kira) had a "wonderful" baby ten months before the show began filming. (At this point Siddig's beer arrived; he informed us that beer in the US has by law to be 4% weaker than in the UK.)

Which two film stars would he like to meet? Siddig said that he'd like to meet Jodie Foster, for her all-round acting talent, and James Stewart - "he's not dead yet!"

Does he watch other science fiction to compare DS9 to? No, because there's nothing else as good; Star Trek invented them really. You can't use words like 'warp' or 'beam' by law; "let's go very fast then."

Has Siddig heard Brent Spiner's James Cagney impression? (It's on the blooper reel). No, although he'd had dinner with him the previous week (ie the one before Warp One) and Brent did an impression of Patrick which was very good.

How would Siddig report his Warp One experience back to the rest of the cast? "Um." "This is the bit where you lie!" said someone in the audience. Siddig said that he'd had a really good time and really prefers it to the US; in the UK you see "small fields

and things." He'd been warned that ST fans were weird, and "you're not at all!" He said that Rene Auberjonois (Odo) had been trying to come over for Warp One, and that Armin (Shimmerman - Quark) had been toying with the idea of coming and sitting at the back of the hall, as no one would recognise him without his makeup! (He is/was due to come over for a Beauty and the Beast con.)

How far is Doctor Bashir 'Doogie Howser in Space'? "I have hair under my armpits!" Siddig doesn't think that Doctor B is like Doogie; he told us that we were to tell him if he gets like that, because it's "really sad."

Has Siddig ever thought of becoming a stand-up comedian? "I'd die a hundred times!" The questioner said that he thought Siddig very entertaining (and he was). Siddig then proceeded to do 'sound effects' with the mike, which amused us all further.

How tall is Siddig? "Six foot - ish." He

doesn't know for sure; he was last weighed and measured at school! He said that Terry Farrell (Dax) is six-two - "that's six foot two, not six too."

Would he like to do more stage work? He'd love to, but doesn't know whether he'll get the chance.

At this point, his 'goodbye pressy' was brought on; he had to catch a train and couldn't stay for the closing ceremony. He threw the wrapping paper around the stage while unwrapping what turned out to be a carriage clock. Having thanked us all, he picked up the rubbish and tried to leave the stage, only to be told that Marina was slightly delayed; could he ad-lib please. He started doing a Yorkshire accent and muttering about whippets (a la stand-up comedian) but "I can't ad-lib!" After a pause, we got, "well, here we are. You're all very nice, and I probably have time to tell you all individually...." At this point Marina arrived, so after introducing her he really did leave.

☆☆☆☆

ESCAPE FROM STALAG LUFT 701

or

"Don't tell the Jerries about the escape plan!" (Jim Swallow)

yes, yet another con report by that well-known loony, Helen White

After about four hours' driving we arrived at the picturesque little village of Middleton, and turned into a narrow road bordered with lush green hedges; as we drove along, we felt an increasing sense of expectation. We turned the final corner, and there, ahead of us, loomed our destination.... We had arrived at the camp.

"Golly, chaps," I said, in a worried undertone. "There's a guard on the gate!"

"Go for it, Binky!" said Jimbo, squaring his jaw in determination. "We'll just have to bluff it!"

I drove the old jalopy up to the barrier, and, smiling a confidence that I didn't feel, greeted the guard. We had a sticky moment

when he wanted our registration number, as none of us knew it, but Lady Luck was on our side and he believed our story that the car was hired. He issued us with the necessary papers and let us through. We were in; the plan could be put into action!



The Way to freedom....

I think you've probably got the message; yes, we were at Pontins, for the first ever major ST con to be held at a holiday camp. We registered with the con, then with Pontins, and merrily skipped to our chalets, except that it was more of a 'drag the luggage across a decrepit tennis court without a net to the chalets'. Having unpacked a bit ("a bit of what?" you may ask), and armed with our con-package maps, we then went to explore the campsite. Let's not beat about the bush here; Pontins at Middleton is a bit of a dump, with paint peeling off buildings all over the place. Luckily, the inside of the chalets was jolly pleasant, if distinctly cramped, and the staff were all very friendly, if rather bewildered at first. I'm sure that some of them thought we were dangerous....

Having had a quick walk around our new territory, we returned to the registration desk, via the duckpond (yes, very funny. I'm sure you know perfectly well that I mean that we walked around it, not through it) in search of medication for Jo, who was feeling somewhat ill. Luckily, Sadie Mason came to the rescue with some indigestion thingies, and we put Jo to bed (metaphorically speaking) so that she could have a snooze while the rest of us went to get some supper - and, in view of the state of the 'patient', medicines. I must confess that I was rather worried about Jo; she didn't look very well at all. We zoomed off into Morecambe, and got supper - it was chicken and chips, if you must know, although I hardly think that it's relevant - and various potions. Vrooom again, and we were back with the patient, who was already feeling better. Before I forget, I'll tell you that she felt a jolly sight better by the next day, thank goodness for that, although she kept coughing, is there a doctor reading this report? After eating the food, we ambled to the bar, meeting a first-time con-goer en route, whom we invited to tag along, hello Anne-Maria. We got our drink, watched TNG on Sky, and then went back outside; the bar was extremely noisy and full of smoke. On our way back to our chalets we just happened to pass the adventure playground, and before you could say 'knife' (why on earth would anyone want to say 'knife' out of context like that? The English language is a bit peculiar, if you ask

me) we were on the tyre slides. Wheeee! Having spent ages sliding to-and-fro, Jo retired to bed while I and the chaps escorted Anne-Maria back to her chalet. We ended up staying until 12.30 am, telling her all about what happens at cons; by the time we left, an anticipatory light was gleaming in her eye! We wandered back to our respective chalets and crashed out (splat).

Friday (gosh, is that all?)

We all awoke early and went to brekker, which was jolly good, BUT.... No toast, no brown sugar and no honey - all staples of breakfast as far as I'm concerned. Oh woe! We all made the best of a bad job, mutter mutter, and then went down to the beach. We wandered along the beach looking for fossils in the rocks; Richard and Jo each found one.

After we'd finished fossil-hunting, we drove into Morecambe; there were a couple of things that we needed for the fancy dress.... We found all the bits that we wanted, then walked along the front and bought a few other odds and ends. Jim got himself a T-shirt printed: 'Deep Space Nine - Cardassian Demolition Crew'. Oh dear....

We arrived back at the camp in good time for lunch, only to find that there wasn't any provided, as 'full board' didn't start until the evening, sigh, so we bought sandwiches and went to stand in the queue for the dealers room. Yes, the Warp One committee had decided that they'd open the dealers room between 2 and 7pm on Friday, oh dear, goodbye money. Richard wanted one of the new TNG phasers, and, after hearing his description, so did I and Jo! We made haste to the Sheffield Space Centre table as soon as we were allowed in and made our purchases (the first of many, alas). I chatted to Janet (who had a cold - I hope it's gone by now and that you're feeling much better) and Sheila and Valerie, then we all went back to the chalet, dumped our new belongings and aimed towards the dealers room again, only to be waylaid by the bouncy castle. Having totally exhausted ourselves, we then played in the adventure playground for a while, zooming around on the tyre-slides again.

After that, we went to dinner, which was great; fish and chips followed by suet roll and ice cream, yummy. The food generally was like nice school dinners, I thought, and it was great not to have to pay out for meals once you'd got to the 'full board' stage, ie Friday evening. (The cost of all meals was included in the chalet prices, hooray.)

Having thoroughly stuffed ourselves, we went to watch TV Taboo, which was good fun, then to the main hall, the USS Berengaria (!) for the opening ceremony. The building in question was built to look like a ship from the outside, and was actually called the SS Berengaria, but some enterprising (ha ha) soul had climbed up and stuck a 'U' in front of the name. Apart from the 'hangar' at the Norbreck in Blackpool, this was the largest main hall that I've seen; it was about three times as big as the main hall at The Grand in Birmingham, to give you some idea of the size of it. There were four tiers of seating areas, and a balcony-type thing running around three sides of the room, plus a bar at the back of the hall and a huge stage at the front.

The opening ceremony was packed out, as usual, although neither of the main guests were there yet; Richard Arnold had arrived, however, so he was introduced, for the benefit of the approximately two people who had never seen him before. (He's very much a regular guest at UK cons, as anyone who's been to cons or read con reports will know.) We were introduced to the committee; Dave Simons, Gill Rainey and Jan Burton, who are all totally mad and have now proven themselves capable of running a really superb con, hooray. Please do it again!

Following the opening ceremony, all the stewards - and for once, it really was 'all the stewards'; I don't think I've seen so many at one con before - squished into the not-actually-very-large Alternative Programme Room for a stewards' meeting. We had the usual chat about what our duties were, and how the con would be run, and the video timetable was explained; the episodes were scheduled to start on the hour, every hour, which gave ten to fifteen minutes' break between each, to allow the VCR concerned to cool down and allow people to come in and

find seats, etc. That all sorted out, we decided to be thoroughly pathetic and go to bed 'early' (ie about 11.30pm, which is early at a con) because we were all worn out from bouncing around earlier!

Saturday

Feeling much rejuvenated, we trekked (ha ha again) over to the other side of the campsite for breakfast, and then went our separate ways; I made my way to the registration desk for a bout of stewarding. It being the first full day of the con, there was a huge queue already, although with five or six people working on the desk we got through them quite quickly. There were plenty of people who'd just turned up on spec, as well as a couple of queries about lost badges.

Having done my duty for the day, as it were, I strolled along to the dealers room for a second look round, only to find that a large pile of second-hand zines had appeared on the IDIC/SciTpress table, and of course they take plastic now, don't they? I inquired of Sheila whether I could buy second-hand items with my Visa card, hoping that she'd say no; she grinned widely at me and said, "oh, yes." Drat! I purchased a large heap of zines to add to my collection and zoomed back to the chalet to drop them off, then it was off to the Berengaria with my notebook and pen.

I managed to restrain myself during the last few items of the auction (part one), and settled down to listen to Richard Arnold's talk. This seems a jolly good moment to welcome Karen Sparks back to con-talk reporting; it's great to have you back! We had decided between us that I would report all Richard's DS9 stuff, as Karen hadn't seen any of the series yet, so I had a bit of a rest for an hour; this was Richard's TNG 'slot'. Following Richard's talk (see elsewhere for reports on all the fifty million talks at this con; I don't know, we have no major Trek guest at the May con for two years, then two come along at once....) are you still following this sentence? I ran at very high speed to the restaurant and ate my lunch in ten minutes flat.

Back at the main hall, the charity auction was drawing to a close, with Richard on fine form as usual. Next up were the two main guests; first Marina Sirtis, then Siddig El Fadil (Doctor Julian Bashir in DS9). Karen was 'doing' Marina, so for a change I got to watch the guest as well as listen! Marina was great fun, although I feel sorry for anyone who prefers to report from a tape recorder (I don't know whether Karen does; I forgot to ask her) as we were told that "no video cameras or tape-recorders" were to be used during Marina's talks. After Marina, Siddig came on; he was obviously nervous in front of the 'home' audience, but was very entertaining. Following the talks was the Saturday autograph session; the two sessions were extremely well organised. Everybody got a raffle ticket in their con-package; blue tickets were for Saturday and orange for Sunday. We all got into line and waited for things to start moving - Siddig had gone to get the rugby results! Very soon the tables were set up, and off we went. The queue was huge; it snaked all around the hall and up onto the balcony! Things were arranged very efficiently, however, and we were soon at the business end, giving up our tickets and getting various things (only one signature each, from each guest) signed. There was a Pontins photographer on hand, taking photos for those that wished it; it was quite reminiscent of Seatrek in 1991. Marina shot a funny look at me, Jo and Jim; I suspect that she recognised us - after all, Jim did eat her dinner at the Seatrek gala! - but there was no time to stop and talk, unfortunately.

Having collected our autographs, we went for supper - fish and chips again - and then returned to our chalets; Jim and myself had to prepare for the fancy dress.

Having got ourselves into full Klingon outfits, we collected our props (go on, own up; I bet you're dying to know what we're up to, aren't you?!) and made our way to the adventure playground, where we dug up some sand - also part of our entry - to the great delight and amusement of the Klingon Hunt that was currently taking place. Declining invitations to join the Hunt ("Go away with that water! We're in the fancy dress!") we trotted off to reception with our

belongings and set ourselves up. We joined the queue - in the correct place; we had all been numbered beforehand - and awaited our turn. It was an hour and a half before we got there, but we were directly behind Taruka Quauhtezcatl (see? I told you I could spell your name!) and she and I had a jolly good chat; neither of us had met before, although we sort of knew each other through the pages of IDIC! Eventually, it was time for 'number twenty-two', and on went Jim and I. I laid a striped towel carefully on the floor, and Jim placed upon it a seaside bucket half full of sand with silver foil laid on top of said sand and a windmill stuck into said sand. I placed beside the bucket a smaller bucket plus a spade, and then added the finishing touch; a 'Kiss me quick' hat. The title of this arrangement? "Odo on holiday". Yes, I know. Dreadful, isn't it? For once, it wasn't my idea; Jim thought up the idea of having a bucket and calling it Odo, and Maureen (who couldn't get to Warp One unfortunately, hello Maureen) thought of making it a seaside bucket, as the con was being held in Morecambe. We got a good big laugh, although we didn't win, ho hum.

Following the fancy dress we went to the adult auction to listen to some of Rog Peyton's marvellous readings. I have one thing to say to you, Mr Peyton: "black thermal underwear." The auction was great fun, although I did think at one point (see previous sentence) that Rog was about to have a heart attack, he was laughing so much! I have to admit that I succumbed to temptation and bought a couple of zines, sigh. We eventually retired to bed at 1am, zzzzzzz.

Sunday



After brekker and a quick pootle through the dealers room, I went back to the registration desk for my second stint of stewarding. Then we toddled over to the

main hall and caught the end of Chas Evans, so to speak. Actually, perhaps I should rephrase that.... nah! He had some very interesting trailers to show us, including Jurassic Park and the new Addams Family film.

After Chas, Richard Arnold came on with his DS9 slides and talk; time for me to get writing! Following that, I raced to lunch - sorry, forgot to note what I had - and then back to the Business Meeting, puff pant gasp. There was a jolly good turnout for the Meeting; the two 'contestants' were Sol III, aiming to hold a con at the Norbreck in Blackpool, and Shore Leave, (Scarborough). After the usual questions and answers, we moved to a vote, with some of the Pontins Bluecoats acting as tellers! The result was as follows: (I would pretend to be a returning officer, but I can't remember exactly what they say) Sol III won with a total of 263 votes. This means that the May '95 con is May 26 - 29, 1995, in Blackpool; goody, it'll be great to go back to the Norbreck (the infamous North Wing has been refurbished....) Oh, and in case you're wondering why it's on the second bank holiday weekend, it's because the government are abolishing the May BH, oh thanks a bunch, guys. First George Bush 'steals' Wil Wheaton from UFP '91, then the British government mess our whole system about....

After the Business Meeting was Siddig's second talk of the weekend, so more writing for me, then Marina's and another rest - both were on top form again, and jolly entertaining. We then left the hall, as it was time for the 'orange' autograph session.

After another session in the adventure playground, it was time for the stewards' party. This started off in a quiet and sedate manner; however, Jo (for it was she) declared it 'boring' and started a paper 'plane fight. Things took a while to get going, but in the end there were 'planes flying all over the place, mainly between our table (me, Jo, Jim, Richard, Linda, Lesley, Stuart, Paul C and Sadie M, hello all) and members of KAG Scotland, who were all in 'plain-clothes', hello and Qapla', chaps, with various other people

joining in as the mood took them, hello everybody, in fact, except the boring people who refused to get involved.

Eventually things quietened down and we left, each clutching the picture that we'd been given by the Warp One team as a 'thank you' for stewarding, gosh, what a nice thought. We returned to our chalets, then Jo and I joined the chaps for a game of Orgy. Now stop it! I'm referring to the board game, which is very loosely based on the activities of the ancient Romans, and NO OTHER ANYTHING BY THE SAME NAME, IS THAT CLEAR? Good. After the game (I lost, mutter mutter) we retired to bed. Separately.

Monday (last day, boo hoo)

Got up, packed, oh ugh, had brekker. Jim and I then queued for our fancy dress photo for fifteen minutes, and raced to the Berengeria, only to find that Richard Arnold was still in breakfast and we needn't have hurried! Richard appeared a few minutes later, saying that he wasn't sure how to fill the next two and a half hours - in case this is appearing before the talk reports, or you haven't read the report of Richard's Monday talk (and why not? I slave my fingers to the bone, nobody appreciates it, etc etc) I'll just explain; we had, by now, 'lost' the two main guests, and this meant that the guest panel was Richard. On his own. As he was scheduled for an hour before the panel as well, this gave him quite a good bit of time to fill.... He managed it very well, and it was really great to hear some new trivia about original Trek, for a change, although I started to get writer's cramp by the end! During his talk, we were informed that Warp One had just registered attendee number 1701, crikey and yippee. This made Warp One easily the biggest con ever held in the UK; 478239971 cheers!

After Richard's marathon effort it was time for the closing ceremony, harumph (that's a jolly good word, isn't it? I think I'll use it again: harumph), although there was a slight delay, during which he told us that UK cons were his favourite, what a sensible chap.

All at once, the Star Trek theme (the original one) rang out, and the Pontins people did us a short light-show! We then sat and listened to the lists of winners of all the various competitions - Edward Woo won a prize; and after he threatened to tear my notebook up, too! Cheek! - and heard that the raffle had raised approximately £10 000. Yes, that is ten thousand pounds (and it was for Cancer Research), good heavens. One of the fancy dress winners was a marvellously executed (no, NOT that kind of executed, silly) Ferengi; one DaiMon Git....

Following the closing ceremony, we

returned to our chalets and fetched our luggage out to the car, then made our final escape from Stalag Luft 1701, oh dear, it's all over for another year. Surprisingly, there was very little traffic on the road going home; just as well, as we were all exhausted!

I have only one comment for the Warp One committee: it was a great con. Please do it again sometime; if you don't, I shall come and put a Denebian slime-devil up your collective nightdress!

[Janet - We apologise for editing your report, Helen.]

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DAIMON GIT, ON STAGE NOW, PLEASE

IS THIS A KLINGON I SEE BEHIND ME?

ARRGGHH! THERE'S AN ANT CRAWLING UP MY TOOTHPASTE!

Helen White, beware - this is a con report from Taruka Quauhtezcatl!

Well, don't say you haven't been warned. Warp One, Middleton Tower, Morecambe. I have never seen so many people in one place at one time since the last Independencia Boliviana Festival I attended. Dave, Judith Taylor and I arrived about noon on Friday, having travelled the grand total of 26 miles or so. I wish someone had had the decency to signpost the way; fortunately I know the area, having spent several holidays across the bay at Ocean Edge.

The registration desk had the usual inordinate amount of trouble with my semi-unpronounceable surname, then we found our chalet... or rather, anthill. We had just begun unpacking when a steward came up and asked if we were from Preston... Hiya, Edward, hope you didn't get rushed off your feet, and see you at the next comic mart! (What baffles me is how he recognised me! He said it was the auburn hair and DS9 uniform.) ((Hope your nephews liked the tribbles.))

I think that was when we discovered the ants. Our chalet was alive with them. We eventually rigged up a trap of sorts with

an ashtray half full of water and a mint humbug, which worked until the staff was able to do something about the insects. Dave jumped several feet when he found the ant on his pillow.

Onwards and upwards. And in search of food. Finding the restaurant closed, we descended on the Snack-a-Tack cafe (along with half the convention, I should think.) Then on to find where everything was, especially Ops and the Dealers' Room, the first to register a late entry in the Fancy Dress and the second to say Hi to the IDIC Committee. I hope I didn't bother Sheila too much. *[You didn't.]*

By this time it was about time to raid the restaurant, and my insides never forgave me for that chicken curry. Back to the chalet to have a go at the con trivia quiz, then a rapid change of costume for Judith and me. She arrived at the opening ceremony in my sari and managed to get her photo taken; I went as Irina Galuilin and just got very cold legs. Sheila and Dave somehow managed to jointly bemoan the lack of smokies, bridies, Lorne sausage and gigot chops in England...

something I know only too well myself!

The Theme Tune Quiz ran before the opening ceremony, but they never gave the answers. Hiding among the familiar ones like Thunderbirds and Mission Impossible were such rarities as Man in a Suitcase and China Beach. A groan went up for Crossroads but I noticed quite a few blank faces at the theme to DS9 - in fact, it took me two hearings to be absolutely certain... and I'd only heard it an hour or so earlier when I watched Q-less.

From there (and feeling like an ice cube) on to Video 1 to watch Birthright, recommended to me by Donna, Brent Spiner fan extraordinaire, Macey, for the fact that Brent appears in the first part as a young Noonian Soong... minus the Data makeup. Ah, for a copy of the scene where Soong touches Data's face. He actually looks slightly older as Soong than he does as Data. The whole thing is a very good story, in my opinion at least.

Evict the ants and crawl into bed, setting another mint humbug in the trap.

Saturday morning, early start to try and see Q-less, then to lunch... or whatever, they all seem to have run together a bit. After breakfast Judith and I went costume-hunting again while Dave went to the auction and, lucky thing, Richard Arnold's first talk. We were detained by the fancy dress rehearsal. I ended up talking to Beatrix Jones and congratulating her on a drawing of Q which graces my living room wall.

Quick dash to the chalet to pick up my autograph book and Judith's feathers then on to Marina's first talk. Judith had to ask about the dog and the microwave/trash compactor and the answer still seems to be the same. Marina insists she caught Brent putting her dog, a miniature Yorkshire terrier called Skilagi, into a microwave, and Brent swears it was a trash compactor. Will the matter ever be resolved? She did, however, explain how come Michael and Brent have the joke regarding the dog, where on seeing it Brent usually says, "Michael, go out long!" Apparently Michael once picked the dog up

as if it were a football and made to long pass it to Brent.

Another story involved Marina taking cover behind first Jonathan, then Brent, as Patrick adlibbed, "I know they're hiding something, you stupid woman!" or words to that effect.

Following immediately was Siddig el Fadil from DS9. Even he admitted that his character was a bit of a dweeb, but he seems to be playing him for laughs anyway. He told a story of the DS9 set being invaded at 2 am one morning by Patrick, Jonathan and Brent singing, "Good morning, good morning..." Then the autograph session. Unfortunately we were only allowed one autograph each; with over 1600 attendees the reason is pretty obvious... Dave had a couple of photos; I asked Marina to inaugurate my leaf cape which I hope to cover with autographs. Interestingly, a young man came up to both Judith and me for our autographs.

Then on to the restaurant to get changed for the fancy dress. If you missed us, Judith was the Bajoran complaints officer and I the obnoxious Starship Captain in "Can We Have a Minute, Please." The wait was considerably improved with I discovered that the Klingon behind me was none other than Helen White who, despite the warnings I have had, is one of the craziest and most pleasant people I think I've ever met.

Beatrix was about too, in her Borg costume. For the final parade, she borrowed a blue tribble from me and that went with her. I believe she's working on a Borg-assimilated tribble for next time. The undoubted winners of the fancy dress were Industrial Blight and Tragic, the Next Dearedation, which deserved to win, as they had a few nasty moments backstage when a connection came loose.

Third costume change for Judith and me, before the Black and White theme party. She went as an intergalactic trader and I went as an unidentifiable *thing* (actually an Andean Condor Dancer). Half the evening was spent admiring a very good Data who seemed to

have even got the movements right.

Collapsed in a wobbly heap in bed...

Sunday morning. Caught a few more DS9 and TNG including Chain of Command then went in search of food, the Art Room, the Dealers' Room and more food, not necessarily in that order. By this time several people had been admiring my handiwork - those knitted TNG uniforms worn mainly by Dave and me. Caught Richard Arnold's DS9 talk - very interesting and informative but for the life of me I can't remember half of it. I was still pretty tired.

The last of my money vanished in the Dealers' Room, buying a couple of missing TNG comics and a photo of John de Lancie to go with the autograph I have from Frontiers.

By evening I was freezing, and as I intended catching a few more DS9 episodes that night I thought it best to attend the Technicolour theme party in my national costume. There was an indescribable baseball (?) game going on on the dance floor with a large inflatable hammer as a bat and, of course, a soft toy bat as the ball. The Data lookalike of the previous evening was now doing an equally commendable impersonation of Quantum Leap's Al. And was it my imagination or did I really see a Ferengi in a Klingon uniform?

Monday. Early start to get everything packed and say goodbye to the ants before collecting our photos and attending the closing ceremony in the USS Berengaria. We also caught half of Richard Arnold's talk on Classic Trek.

From Chas Evans' talk the previous day, we learned that Paramount is intending to release the first DS9 video in July, and that each tape box will form part of a giant map going from DS9, through the wormhole and back to DS9. As they appear to be proposing something like 70 videos, this should be interesting.

ST VI should be out later this month on sell-through and immediately after season 7 the TNG actors are working on a motion

picture for release Christmas 1995 (Richard Arnold).

At the closing ceremony, we were informed that this had been the largest British ST con to date, and that I can well believe. Well done the committee - that lot took some organising.

Half asleep, we crept back to the ballroom for more episodes.

Impressions of the con. Very good. I enjoyed it a lot.

Judith and I spent half the journey home working on ideas for a fancy dress entry at our next con. Yes, we've both been bitten. See as many of you as possible in September at Lightspeed in Leeds.

Anyone wanting tribbles, please contact me.

Incidentally, it took me a while to fathom Helen's entry in the fancy dress. A beach towel, a bucket and spade, windmill and hat. Title? Odo on holiday. Argh!

☆☆☆☆☆



PATRICK STEWART

ON THE STEVE WRIGHT SHOW, RADIO 1, 29/4/93

an edited transcription by Scott Carrick

- Wright: Patrick Stewart is here with us today... Listen, do you get fed up with all the Star Trek jokes - 'Oh, hello, Patrick, we expect you to beam down'? (laugh)
- S: Well, that doesn't qualify as a joke, that just qualifies as a banality.
- W: Thank you. Thank you very much.
- S: I did in fact hear my very first Star Trek joke yesterday - it was a joke about ears. I won't repeat it as everybody will have heard it, but it was in fact my very first. No, any reference to 'beam me up', 'make it so' - those things are no longer funny. You won't crack a smile from me with references like that.
- W: How do you feel about being so famous as Captain Jean-Luc Picard?... Can you live with the fame?
- S: Can I live with the fame? Yes.
- W: And?
- S: It has, as we say, its downside, in that along with it comes a certain amount of sometimes uncomfortable harassment, sometimes potentially lethal harassment. But it's modest compared to, say, being a policeman or a soldier in Bosnia.
- W: You're actually a Shakespearian actor?
- S: Yes, among other things... I appeared with the Royal Shakespeare Company for a lot of years at the National Theatre, and immediately before going to Hollywood at the Young Vic, but never have I been paid a cent, not even a penny, for appearing in the West End.
- W: Would you do a musical?
- S: Yeah. I've auditioned a couple of times for musicals. I would like to flatter myself I was reasonably short-listed for Les Miserables when it opened - I certainly sang for Mr Mackintosh and Mr Nunn. Would you like me to sing for you?
- W: Yes. (laughter) Later, later... Let me just talk about Star Trek now. The episode I saw on Sky last night was the episode where you were captured as the Captain by the Borg ship. How soon does the Captain get rescued and what happens in the episode. Can you tell us?
- S: Yes indeed. Rest assured, the Captain will return to Enterprise with, as far as we can see, everything intact, but his injuries are not all external, many of them are internal. And in fact that episode was recorded more than three years ago, in fact July 1990, and the repercussions of that experience have gone on in that we have just finished recording another Borg episode, and so Picard's relationship, that is psychological relationship, with the Borg remains somewhat tense, and to reveal too much of that particular tension would be to give too much away. However, I do come back -
- W: I didn't get an answer at all there! (laughter) Have you ever thought of going into politics?
- S: Yes!
- W: Because you successfully evaded that question, Patrick!
- S: Do you know of a safe seat?
- W: No, not this one!
- S: I've already been told in the United States that I could run for congress, then after the gentleman proposed this to me he said that he could raise enough money to get me into congress in two years, having heard me doing some public speaking. However, unfortunately I am not a citizen, as it is required, and I have no intention of giving up my British citizenship...
- W: Yes, all right. How did you actually get the Star Trek gig then? How did that come about?
- S: By accident. It was an absolute fluke... I was in fact in California in a break in production at the National Theatre - I was doing a series of solo performances and Shakespeare lectures in universities, and I was assisting a colleague of mine at UCLA who was giving a little lecture at night, by reading extracts, Sheridan and Shakespeare and Doetovsky, Wilde and so forth, and the following day I was called to Paramount for a meeting with Gene

Roddenberry and the other Star Trek producers, and my agent had no knowledge why I should be called; but it happens that one of the producers was signed up for that course of public lectures, heard me read the extracts, and he claims that he turned to his wife and said, "We've found our Captain". Well, six months later that became a reality, because it took all of that time to finally get cast.

W: Did your friends in the business say "Look Patrick, why are you doing this?"

S: One did. One friend and senior colleague at the Royal Shakespeare Company said, "You must not do this - this is a terrible mistake. It will ruin your career".

W: But it hasn't, obviously!... No, but how do you feel about Trekkies and this whole kind of fan thing?

S: I think our show has got the most incredible collection of fans in the history of fandom. It's largely due to the support of the serious, committed fans that the original series was kept on and that this series of ours has been successful. Fans range from vice-chancellors of universities, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the predecessor of Colin Powell was a big fan of the show and asked my permission to sit in the Captain's chair - (laughter)

W: All right! (laughing) You've made it!

S: - and down to 5 - 6 year old kids in school. It's a show which crosses all social boundaries, all ages, races, and in that particular instance makes it something of a phenomenon.

W: Let's talk about some of the characters in the show at the moment. The chap with the eyes.

S: The chap with the eyes? Well, we have one chap without eyes, and one chap with mechanical eyes.

W: Data, the mad staring one.

S: Data the android.

W: Yes - is he the guy who used to be in Benson?

S: Data the android, otherwise known as Brent Spiner. Brent is in fact a Broadway actor; he's done a number of musicals on Broadway and is on the original cast album of the Steven Sondheim musical *Sunday in the Park With George*.

W: Oh. There's some interesting relationships, obviously. The character Data is an android. Now what about your First Officer? There's no kind of warmth between the two of you I've noticed.

S: How do you interpret warmth?

W: Well, you don't seem like very good friends.

S: Really? It's interesting that you've only seen the first three seasons - obviously you haven't seen the one where we get married! (laughter) So that will be a surprise to you!

W: That *will* be a surprise! And a surprise to him!

S: It's in the nature of the good Captain that he is somewhat remote, somewhat removed from the rest of his crew. It's part of his command style, I think; but in fact there is an enormous amount of mutual respect between those two.

W: He likes Riker then - he actually likes him?

S: Yes. I think all kinds of paraphernalia attach themselves to our show; for instance, I learned the other day that when civilian airline pilots have to go for their refresher course, which they have to do I think every year or every two years, they watch sequences from our show that are edited together in order to illustrate the on-the-bridge, on-the-flight-deck command style of Picard, this being an illustration of command at its best. (laughter) Your producer's snorting in the background! Now what I suggest to your producer is that you initiate some of that command style right here in this studio.

W: We're on your side now! (laughter)

S: And a lot of that has to do with the way the officer in command relates to and responds to his fellow crew members. It's a very different command style to Captain Kirk.

W: Yeah, we'll talk about the old series, this series and the new series, and we'll also take a few questions from the posse here; would that be OK with you?

S: Very good.

W: Do you speak any Klingon, by the way?

S: Oh, yes. What would you like to hear?

W: Well, anything!

S: Q'plah! (laughter) As I recall, it means 'goodbye'. Until you've sat down to a dish of bregit lung (laughter) or heart of targ,

- or in fact the dish that Klingons - this is all for real, by the way. I'm not making this up - the dish that Klingons most like to serve to non-Klingons is gagh (much laughter) which moves around in the bowl...
- W: That reminds me of the old canteen up here! What do you think of the old shows and also the films that Bill Shatner and all those people are making now? Is there any needling between the two casts?
- S: I have no personal experience of resentment. I do know that while we were in early production, before the show had aired, Bill, on a TV show, said that he felt that there could never ever be a replacement or a substitute for the original show, which wasn't too encouraging, but I know of no animosity. Leonard Nimoy has done two very successful episodes with us, DeForest Kelley who played Dr McCoy made a brilliant appearance in our pilot episode, which was in a kind of sense a kind of handing over of the baton.
- W: Let's have a question from Mick, the producer... When a new alien is introduced to the show, how detailed is the profile given to you - do you get smells, height, personal habits?
- W: Do you get to check out the aliens first?
- S: Umm. Yeah. Those are the things that you usually pick up in the first 15 - 20 minutes on the set. In fact, the introduction of a new alien is always a very serious business. We've had several in the last two years. Most successfully, a race known as the Cardassians, who have gradually developed in the last year or so as the principal threat to Starfleet other than the Borg, whom you mentioned earlier, but a 'bible' exists on every alien race, so you would have a detailed breakdown of that alien society, so although you may only see a brief appearance by one of them, there will be a whole detailed background.
- W: You were talking about the character that used to play Dr McCoy - I was reading the other day that he was in a hospital, and they asked his opinion on something! (laughter) "Can we get a second opinion from you, Doctor?"
- S: Yes, a little of that pursues me. People assume that because I fly the most advanced piece of technology in the history of television, that I can program my VCR!
- W: I thought you were going to say something like you come over on the plane, you're up there with the pilot and he suddenly turns round and says "This is nothing to you, then, right?"
- S: Ha, ha, ha. In fact I have my own set of demographics for our show by profession - I mean, for instance, I discovered some of our biggest fans are the immigration authorities, which is very useful; flight crew, both on the flight deck and cabin staff, seem to be big fans of the show; musicians; I think it's a lot to do with the hours that people keep.
- W: Yes - but I bet it's nice to be saluted when you walk through Customs! (much laughter)
- S: Well, there are many times when a certain amount of notoriety can be of value to you!
- W: Where you work on the set there, I mean, don't spoil it too much, but there is no ship, it's just a studio, right?
- S: I BEG YOUR PARDON???
- W: It's just a studio, Patrick, isn't it?
- S: **NO SHIP??!** (laughter)
- W: Well, I mean, it's like, you know...
- S: Excuse me, will you get me Commander Riker in here, please? (laughter) In fact, it's a major operation - we have three permanent sound stages at Paramount, and Deep Space 9 has three more - it is a massive undertaking, and it is not known as 'the franchise' for nothing at Paramount Studios.
- W: Is this series the last, the series that you're doing now, because you said that this is the sixth and of course with Deep Space 9 coming on -
- S: Let's not confuse 'series' with 'season'. This is American terminology, studio terminology. We've just completed the sixth season of Next Generation -
- W: But my question is are you going to continue to make it?
- S: - and yes; there will be a seventh season - and beyond that, I can also tell you that this time next year I would expect us to be in production of the first feature film of The Next Generation.

W: Brilliant!

S: Remember you heard it here first, ladies and gentlemen!

W: Form the Captain! We have a question here from Richard...

R: This is a fax that's come in since we've been on the air - this is from Steve Close of Bridgend - "Could you please settle an argument between me and my girl friend. She claims that Patrick Stewart stayed at her caravan site in Gower in Swansea (laughter) about 10 or 12 years ago; he had long hair, was reading Shakespeare, and had just appeared on Jackanory! I however don't believe that Jean-Luc Picard would choose to spend his shore leave in a caravan. Could you please help?" Well, were you?

S: Absolutely, categorically, yes!

W: Oh. And had you just done Jackanory?

S: Yes.

R: Well - glad to be of service!

W: Do you work in America exclusively, or will you work anywhere?

S: Well, the series takes ten months a year to film, so I don't have much opportunity; but while we were off air just a moment ago you mentioned a film called Death Train which was made in conjunction with YTV, and we were filming that just

11 months ago in Croatia and Slovenia; I think we were actually the last film company to pass through those troubled lands.

W: I wonder if we'll get to see that here?

S: Actually it has not been seen here - it has just aired in the United States, very successfully. It's an Alistair Maclean story about a United Nations anti-crime organisation which I head, and I am told there are another 5 stories, 5 novels to be filmed, so I'm looking forward to this becoming a mini-series of its own.

W: OK. I've had so many calls from Trekkies, and I've had so many letters and faxes, would you please say something to them.

S: Yes, to our fans in England?

W: Yes, absolutely.

S: I've had a number of requests during the past five years to attend British conventions; it's been impossible for me to attend. I give an absolute guarantee that once I am released from the series, and this has to be the deal, then I will attend some conventions in England...

W: Listen, Patrick Stewart, thank you very much for coming in. I've enjoyed talking to you very much. Thank you.

S: I've had a grand time. Thank you.

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EVERY GOOD BOY DESERVES FAVOUR

A Play for Actors and Orchestra by Tom Stoppard and Andre Previn

Report by Donna Macey, Worcester

Performed at the Chicago Theatre, N. State St, Chicago, IL, USA on Apr 10/11 '93

Presented by the Space Agency Concerts and Theatricals

Conductor - Michael Lankaster
Exec Producers - Patrick Stewart
Kate Elliott
Director - Patrick Stewart

Jonathan Frakes
Teacher - Gates McFadden
Sacha - John Christian Graas
Doctor - Patrick Stewart
Colonel - Colm Meaney

and

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Cast (in order of appearance)

Alexander Ivanov (mental patient) Brent Spiner
Alexander Ivanov (political dissident)

This unusual play was performed on stage by 5 great actors from ST:TNG, together with a 60-piece string orchestra. The stage setting was on 3 levels, consisting of a

classroom, prison cell and a Doctor's office, situated in the 3rd Civil Mental Hospital in the late 1970s.

The whole performance lasted 2 hours and 10 minutes, with the first hour being dedicated to the orchestra playing extracts from Shostakovich, Khachaturian and Tchaikovsky and conducted by an Englishman, Michael Lankaster, who is also the Music Director of the Hartford Symphony and is no stranger to the performances of *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*, as he was the conductor for the long-running London production.

After a short intermission, the actors came onto the stage together. The play began with Brent, as the Mental Ivanov, playing along with his triangle to the orchestra he could hear in his head and one which the audience eventually hears.

He listens to it mentally, much to the annoyance of his cell companion, the Political Dissident (Jonathan Frakes) who was locked away for speaking out and retaliates by going on several hunger strikes. Sitting on his bunk, the Dissident watches the Mental Ivanov very warily, until he becomes uncomfortable. He eventually coughs, the spell is broken and the mental patient returns to his bunk and starts a weird conversation with the other Ivanov.

Meanwhile in school the Dissident's son Sacha (John Christian Graas - one of the children in the 5th season episode *Disaster*) starts to react when his teacher (Gates McFadden) tries to make him understand the wrongdoings of his father. The boy becomes disobedient and misbehaves in class.

Patrick Stewart plays the part of the Doctor who is in charge of the hospital. He also is a member of the Orchestra. He tries to convince the Mental Patient that there is not really an orchestra, and he also tries to get the Dissident to rehabilitate.

In the end the Colonel arrives, played by Colm Meaney. Although this was a very brief appearance, it was a very spectacular entrance. Silhouetted against a red

background as the curtains rose, it was a very impressive sight. He walks up to the two Ivanovs and speaks with each one. Finally he decides that there is absolutely nothing wrong with any of them and leaves the cell, followed by the Doctor.

The 2 Ivanovs look at each other in silence, then the Mental Patient picks up his triangle and walks out of the cell. The Dissident sits back on his bunk and Sacha walks in. Both father and son gaze at each other before Sacha eventually leaves.

After a few minutes the Dissident gets up and leaves the hospital. He meets his son and both walk off, hand in hand as the orchestra plays. The music ends in a triangle.

My sister Dawn and I had flown to Chicago to attend this play and we had a fabulous time over there. The play was a huge success, being sold out for both performances.

The main reason we went is because we are huge Brent Spiner fans and we really wanted to see him at his best (which is acting) other than a convention (I have all of his appearances on audio anyway).

It was also a chance to see the others, and each and every one of them, like Brent, was marvellous.

The highlight of the evening was when we got to meet Brent and Jonathan before the performance began. Jonathan was lovely, but Brent... What can I say? He's everything we had imagined - charming, polite, and incredibly sexy. We spoke with him for a while and he was surprised when we told him that we had come all the way from England to see him. He's a little taller than I had expected (he's 5'11"). He wore his glasses and had a light beard stubble (probably for his role in the play) and he had the most amazing blue eyes we had ever seen. He stood so close to us we wanted to melt! While he was talking to us two girls interrupted him for autographs, which he politely refused, saying he couldn't sign at that moment. He then headed towards the door.

Afterwards there was a huge crowd (about 200 people) waiting for them to leave. Patrick came out with the production team and got in the first limo; later Jonathan, Gates, Brent and Colm came out and all 4 got in the second limo. Brent walked past us and as he did he turned to us and said, "Thanks for coming".

Once inside the limo, Gates stuck her head out and started taking photos of the crowd, then one of the others did too and I realised after that it was Brent.

We had a brilliant evening, and we'll go and see Brent again, maybe next year - he's certainly well worth it.

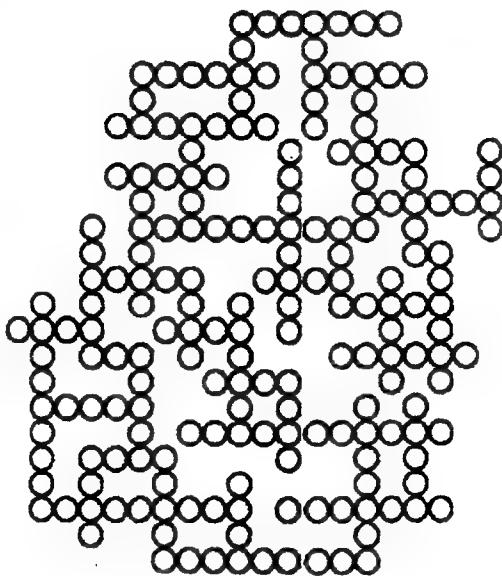
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STAR TREK JIGWORD

by Chris C Bailey

Below you will see a list of 45 words and names connected with Star Trek (original series, animated and TNG). The aim of the puzzle is to fit all the names into the grid like a jigsaw.

April	La Forge	Riker
Arex	Lazarus	Riley
Chapel	Lethe	Roddenberry
Chekov	Lindstrom	Sarek
Crusher	Lora	Scott
Data	Lore	Spock
Desalle	Lurry	Stardate
Elaan	McCoy	Sulu
Enterprise	Miramanee	Trelane
Flint	Number One	Troi
Green	O'Brien	Uhura
Guinan	Picard	Webb
Kirk	Pike	Wesley
Koloth	Rael	Worf
Kor	Rand	Yar



Clue: only one name contains eleven letters.

Answer on page 78.



WHEN IS A CLIQUE NOT A CLIQUE?

by Jacqueline Y. Comben

When I read various letters complaining of Cons so full of cliques that new attendees felt unwelcome and unable to mix or make friends, I was shocked. *Star Trek* fans are, I had always thought, characterised by their friendliness. "You are never alone at a Con!" was a well known saying. How could we have changed so much? Thinking about it, I decided that, as Cons have grown, we have reached a situation where you have upwards of 800 people and it is impossible for all to gather in a friendly lounge or bar, mixing freely. We tend to congregate in friends' rooms, making an absolutely impenetrable clique, out of sheer necessity! When we do manage to find some space in a lounge, we end up frantically fighting for chairs and then sitting very close together, in order to fit. The result certainly looks like a clique and I can understand that first-time attendees find the prospect of approaching such a group rather unnerving! You see, a lot of us already know one another and only really see each other at Cons, so it is not surprising we collect in chattering groups! Clearly, this animated discussion, of itself, discourages a first-timer from trying to join the gathering, especially when the talk seems to be about people totally unknown to the reluctant eavesdropper! However, I do not believe that we really form cliques in the true sense. We would welcome any newcomer to join us. We would like to meet fans not yet known to us. "Come on in, the water's lovely!"

So, how does a first-timer get to know others? This little article is intended to give you some hints. I have wondered about how to appear less like a clique when gathered with friends, but suspect that is impossible, for the reasons stated above. I do realise that gatherings in bedrooms are to be avoided, where possible, and intend to try to remember this, but we do move round and about quite a lot, so my 'hints' will apply then!

Volunteer to Steward! This will get you to meet others at the Stewards' Meeting, and

when on duty. You do not need previous experience and you will not have to spend vast amounts of time in places you prefer to avoid. At the Stewards' Meeting, mention that this is only your first or second Con, and everyone will be delighted to give you advice, welcome you to the ranks, and admire you for being willing to help. You will also be able to attend the Stewards' Party, which is another place to meet people, though rather late in the proceedings. (By the way - at MidCon, we still run this event as a party. I have noticed that many Cons run it as a glorified autograph queue and would be interested in comments as to which Stewards prefer!).

When it is not seething with eager buyers, visit the Dealers' Room and chat to the Fan Dealers (as opposed to the professional variety). Mention that you are at your first Con and you will probably gain some introductions to folk who happen to be passing by.

If there is a 'First-Timers' Party', go along to it, even if you are not actually at your first Con. It is nice for 'real' first-timers to meet folk who know a little about what Cons are like, and this is a good way to meet people who have not formed any sort of clique!

Come to visit the Registration Desk when we are not faced with a mile long queue! Let's face it, you will not get a friendly chat with us if we are overwhelmed with work, but if we are bored off our fannies, we'll be positively eager for someone to talk to! Don't be put off by the fact that we are chatting to each other - we have to do that to pass the time - variety is most welcome!

Anyone reading this, who knows me, may be thinking that I am the last person to advise the shy! Actually, I do not find it easy to approach perfect strangers, so can sympathise with others who have this problem. The fact that I now know so many

fellow fans is a reflection on the friendliness of those fans, not on the fact that I am pushy! (Once I know someone, I am as pushy as any Bajoran, but that only underlines how forbearing fans are, since they put up with me and don't run a mile at the sight of my face!).

So, don't feel you cannot attend a Con on your own. I went to my first knowing precisely one other fan. I did not know her well and did not exactly dog her steps! I attended a Writers' Workshop, which helped, and I recommend such events as a way to meet people, but I met others, mainly through Stewarding, because they were, and are, such friendly people.

Don't spend all your time in a video room, practically glued in place, and then complain that you did not make friends! If you want to see every new TNG and DS9 episode, fine, but it is impossible to meet anyone if you spend the entire Con sitting in the dark gazing at a screen!

Don't be put off if the first person you address doesn't fall into your arms with delight at the pleasure of making your acquaintance! You may have picked someone who is in a hurry, waiting for a friend, trying to save six seats, or is just distracted for some reason... maybe not feeling well? Also, sometimes we meet people with whom we 'hit it off' at once, but other people just do not 'appeal', somehow or other. It's chemistry, and if your chemistry is wrong, you are never going to be deep friends, however intrinsically friendly both of you may be!

When you do get chatting to someone, don't latch on as if glued! That person may well know a lot of others, and want to see all

of them. If you make it clear that you are happy to chat and part, you will be a lot more popular than the kind who needs to be driven off, practically at gun point! You will probably get invited to stay! However, my best friends are fellow Trekkers, whom I only really see at Cons, so I do want to spend some time with them, which is only human nature and does not make us a clique! Most others are like me, in that respect, and I am sure you can understand this.

Don't expect to meet anyone who lives near you! My best friends live about a minimum of 160 miles away! If you specifically want to meet people from, say, the Nether Wallop area, try a notice on the Board. If you want folk to give their names to Registration, please talk to Registration about this first, as it is a bit of a shock to find we are supposed to have some sort of list we have never heard of! However, there may be folk there who live near you, so listen out for your local accent! As an example, ASTRA (Abertawe Star TRek Association) are usually audible at ten paces when speaking quietly! [Sorry Sue!].

This has been written on the assumption that I am 'manning' Registration - which I do tend to do a lot, but if I am not there and you see a tricolour Cavalier King Charles spaniel, I am the female attached to her lead. Truffle adores being petted, so by all means, come and make her adore you!

I hope this will prove helpful and will encourage anyone who has been put off by all the talk of cliques. I do truly believe that Star Trek fans are still the friendliest folk on Earth and we would like the chance to prove it to you at some Con soon!



DS9 - THE TRILL

by Baerbel Schmidt

The Trill first appeared in the fourth season TNG episode *The Host*. When I first watched it I wasn't sure if I should like it or be disgusted. After a while I decided to do both. What I liked is the concept of the story if you don't look too much into the depth of it. It is on the one hand a very beautiful and touching love story. Beverly falls in love with the ambassador Odan without knowing first that he is a Trill. When she learns the truth she has to look at her own feelings again. Her problems - to accept Odan for what he is and to see that she loves him because of his spirit and his soul, not because of his body - gave me something to think about. When she couldn't continue their relationship in spite of all her efforts when he became a she, I felt very much for her. As I said, on the surface this story is remarkable.

But I immediately also had to think about what this being Odan is. Of course, when I watched this episode, there was no Deep Space 9 and there are some obvious differences. For example, Odan was only referred to as Odan. Was that the name of the host or the symbiont? At that time I had to think that this was the name of the symbiont and that the host has none, that there are really no differences - at least to the Trill. Also Odan is lacking the spots Jadzia Dax has. Are there different races of the Trill hosts? It must be.

What put me off is the way Odan referred to his humanoid host. When the host was mortally wounded he told Beverly that his humanoid body is 'just a host' (I see the emphasis on the word 'just'). He said it was himself, the 'parasite', that must survive. In other words, the death of the humanoid was not important to Odan. In a scene that was cut out later but I could read in the script, he also said that the humanoid hosts have no own personality without the symbionts inside. It was very different with Riker, who served as an emergency host until a new one could arrive. Only that couldn't be true, because Beverly talked to the woman

who became Odan's new host before he was implanted and she was definitely not a mindless zombie but an intelligent being! This attitude disgusted me and proved to me that the so-called symbionts must enslave these humanoids in a very vile manner that Riker's personality was completely suppressed and he had no memory of what happened when Odan was in him was only additional proof. Of course, you could say that Riker was not 'designed' to be a host, that this could be the explanation why he can't remember. But I also remember the description of the scene that was cut out: Odan in Riker joined a poker game. Odan never played poker before and was very surprised that he could use Riker's experiences. Obviously the host only serves as a tool to Odan to survive and the humanoid him/herself really becomes in fact a mindless shell.

When I first heard that the science officer of DS9 is a Trill I absolutely disliked the idea. On the other hand I tried not to see her too negatively from the beginning, but hoped that we would get more information about the Trill, information that perhaps would make them more acceptable, perhaps even more likeable. An excellent source of information is the episode *Dax*. Dax is accused of a murder she supposedly committed when she was in a previous host, a man. We learn that contrary to what was said in *The Host*, there is a big difference between host and symbiont and suddenly there is no question that the humanoid host is an intelligent being. For example, suddenly the Trill has two names, the first the one of the host, the second is that of the symbiont. Jadzia is a young woman who already wanted to be joined to a symbiont when she was a child. To be chosen as a host is considered to be a great honour among these humanoids and competition among young people is very tough. Candidates must have reached a certain age and have various qualifications, not only school knowledge but also only people with a strong personality

are chosen. After the symbiont is implanted they are a combined unit after 93 hours. After that period they cannot be separated or they will die. It was said that the host was not suppressed by the symbiont. Both brains form a unit like 'two linked computers' as Dr Bashir put it. With the union the symbiont brings its life experience and that of its previous hosts into the new host. That means that when living in a host, part of him or her imprints itself onto the symbiont and when that host dies, part of him (her) continues to live with the symbiont, which remembers what previous hosts thought and did. When changing the host, the symbiont on the one hand retains its personality, but on the other, with the union, the combination of both results in a Trill that is different from its predecessor.

The explanation given in DS9 so far certainly made the Trill more acceptable for me. I cannot say 'likeable' because I still have a bad feeling about this concept, especially because many things that were said in Dax (and previous DS9 episodes) are contradictory to The Host. Didn't they see this at Paramount when they wrote the background for Jadzia Dax? This is hard to believe, because usually the background of characters and stories is defined and researched with great care. Therefore there is room for speculation. I think we can say that Jadzia Dax and Odan are members of two different Trill races. Could it be that Odan's race in general has a different attitude towards the hosts? That they consider them only as shells and ignore their true nature? Or was Odan the bad exception from the rule? Is there perhaps even another race of symbionts, symbionts who in reality are parasites who suppress the host, as seen in The Host? Of course that raises the question of why the young woman in The Host was apparently only too willing to become a new host to one of them - or she didn't know with which member of the 'worm' race she would form a union. Many questions and speculations... Hopefully one day these questions will be answered. In spite of all this, it is at least a relief to learn in DS9 that the humanoid hosts are not forced to unite with a symbiont to become a Trill, that there are many humanoids who choose never to do

it at all.

There is room for more speculation. Already, after watching The Host I very much wondered how such a strange relationship could develop. So far there is no real information available, only contradictory rumours. In Cinefantastique 23/6 I read that the humanoids 'were genetically bred for the purpose' to serve as hosts. One of my German penpals saw an article somewhere (she couldn't say where) where it was explained that a natural disaster forced the humanoids and symbionts to unite so that both races could survive. In this article it was said that the symbionts lived in the soil and the humanoids on the surface before they became dependant on each other. Well, I can certainly see that concerning the symbionts - but the humanoids? It doesn't look to me that way.

I learned that humanoids must have reached a certain age, at least their early twenties, before they can become candidates for being hosts. What about the 'worms'? How are they educated before they enter the humanoids? How do they procreate? What is their civilisation like? They certainly can't speak and use tools as humanoids do because they have no hands. Are they telepaths and telekinetics before they enter the humanoids? Do they also see telepathically before the joining because they seem to have no eyes? It seems the only possibility to me so that these beings could develop their intelligence naturally. Or are they not a natural race? If not, why were they created? If the humanoid hosts are really genetically engineered, was it the 'worms' who did this or the humanoids themselves?

In spite of all ethical misgivings I cannot deny that this concept is very interesting and fascinating because it is so alien. Nobody should be condemned for who and what he/she/it is. Dax helped me to see Jadzia Dax as a person in spite of all these questions. Until these questions are answered, I can only say for myself that I can accept Jadzia Dax now up to a certain degree, but so far I can't say that I really like her. Therefore it is very desirable to give us the opportunity to learn much more about the

Trill so that we get a much clearer picture about the ethical questions involved.

☆☆☆☆

STRIVING AND SPORES

by Kathleen Glancy

Chris Blenkarn's "Striving, Just Striving" was an extremely interesting and thought-provoking piece with a valid point to make. I do have one major quibble, though. Chris, with disarming frankness, admits to dismissing the spores factor in *This Side of Paradise* and I truly don't think you can. If Kirk had found a colony living in an ecologically correct manner *of their own free will* I doubt he would interfere.

That is not what he finds. The spores stop the colonists from polluting the environment, yes, but they do it by keeping them, in essence, permanently drugged. What are the colonists producing apart from just enough food? They do nothing creative - you don't see them playing music or writing poetry. They don't, more importantly, seem to be producing children. This could well be the spores again. They suppress intense emotions, and sexual desire is an intense emotion. A little adjustment of the hormones would allow for romance as far as kisses and playing around on climbing frames went, but draw the line at more serious playing around. Alternatively, the spores might perceive pregnancy as an illness - it isn't, of course, but it does cause major upheaval to a woman's body and can produce effects similar to illness. In a few unlucky cases it can cause actual and serious illness - emphysema, diabetes - or death. The spores might 'cure' any woman who became pregnant, so early that she wouldn't realise they had done it. They aren't worrying about having no children, but then they don't worry about *anything*. There's a difference between living in harmony with nature and stagnation.

There is another factor that might well be in Kirk's mind. He is no scientist, but he is not a fool and he must know some basics. Certainly enough to know that every organism in nature has a reason for doing

what it does. What the spores do is keep people in peak condition physically and dull them mentally. Why? They are getting nothing back from the people. There are two possibilities. One, the spores are part of a larger organism. They collect animals and keep them physically perfect and docile until the time comes for their underground roots to come up and eat them. This only happens every 20 years so the colonists haven't encountered it. Two, the spores have a symbiotic relationship with a nomadic predator, even one that can travel through space. Every so often it comes by, eats the spores' collected prey and gives them a reward. In both cases I am using 'eats' as shorthand for 'does something unpleasant and probably terminal to' - it would be anything from draining their blood to wiping their minds. If Kirk suspects this, and as he *knows* the spores are trying to subvert his crew - there is no way 439 people who chose, indeed competed for the chance, to explore space are suddenly going to want to become lotus eaters of their own volition - then he has other motives than being anti-Green in fighting them.

I'm not saying Kirk *isn't* anti-Green in the sense that he would rather see terraforming than adaptation, but I would contend he has never been given a chance to show how he feels. The script writers give him an out - the spores, the computer in The Apple which clearly is not part of the local biosphere, the 'hippies' in The Way to Eden being led by a cauliflower-eared male Typhoid Mary and wanting to live on a poisonous planet - which gives him good reasons for his apparent attitude.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury, I submit that in this instance Captain Kirk should be treated by Scots law and the case should be found Not Proven.

☆☆☆☆

DID SOONG CREATE LIFE (2)

by Ann Peters

A living entity is an improbable source of molecules which ensures its persistence in time by obtaining negentropy from its surroundings. *Animal Biology* by A J Grove & G E Newell.

When I decided to investigate whether or not Data should be considered alive, this is the definition I chose to use. I feel it makes a serious attempt to describe the basic mechanism of life, and it does not resort to arbitrary and prejudiced criteria which would automatically exclude Data. It manages to include all living organisms from mammals to trees to viruses, and does not include ordinary machines like toasters or television sets. This is very important; a definition which excludes any known life form, or tells me that my digital watch is alive, is of no use whatsoever. It uses precise scientific concepts, yet the idea of 'ensuring persistence in time' suggests the presence of a life force, and that gives it an intuitive appeal as well as a rational one. It is by far the most comprehensive and satisfactory definition I was able to find, and it provided me with an excellent yardstick with which to examine Data's life status.

It is, however, worth considering if there are any aspects of life which the Grove/Newell definition fails to address. Are there alternative definitions that are equally valid but which would exclude Data?

In the episode Home Soil, Dr Crusher listed several properties of living organisms that I well remember from my schooldays - respiration; assimilation; digestion; excretion; movement; sensitivity; growth; reproduction - and these are sometimes put forward as a definition of life. Unfortunately they are heavily biased toward organic life on Earth, and are of little use when examining other life forms. The Grove/Newell definition provides a much more satisfactory approach by focussing on the fundamental mechanisms of life, and most of the properties listed are, after all, merely

manifestations of these mechanisms. Even the anaerobic bacteria on Earth might have difficulty passing a respiration criterion, but whether or not an organism takes in oxygen is not really relevant; what is important is that it survives by exploiting its environment. Respiration, assimilation, digestion and excretion are the way that we acquire the energy to function; movement and sensitivity are the way that we avoid danger and attempt to continue existing; and growth is our method of constructing and repairing damage. If other life forms like Data achieve these fundamental objectives in a different way, that should not disqualify them from being considered alive. But what about reproduction? Surely that is basic to life. If Data cannot reproduce, perhaps that means he is not alive, even though he does satisfy the Grove/Newell criteria.

Reproduction to a bacteria means splitting into two exact copies of its former self; to a virus it means giving instructions to a host cell, and getting the cell to produce new viruses; and organisms that reproduce sexually never succeed in making exact copies of themselves at all, since their offspring only contain half the genes of each individual parent. If reproduction means different things to different species, how do we assess Data in this respect? He certainly does not reproduce in the way that Humans do, but if he were to hand over blueprints for an android like himself to a team of cyberneticists, he would be doing no less than a virus, and he would be doing considerably more than the majority of male mammals, whose only contribution is to supply half of a blueprint. When Data assembled Lal, he was doing no less than a female mammal, by gathering the materials to build her as well as providing a blueprint. And if he were to construct an android EXACTLY like himself, he would in fact be reproducing in a far truer sense than any sexually reproducing individual.

But is reproductive capability really

relevant to life status? And if it is, why does the definition I chose to use make no mention of it? Reproduction is a property of a species rather than an individual within that species. Indeed, the vast majority of living organisms never actually reproduce. Eggs and young die before maturing; many organisms are sterile, whether by genetic design like worker bees or by accident; and even those quite capable of reproducing may never succeed in finding a mate. All these non-reproducing individuals are clearly alive, regardless of the reproductive status. Even at the species level, reproduction is important only because organic individuals die, and for a species to continue some of its members must produce copies of themselves before their inevitable demise. But the longer-lived the members of a species are, the longer they take to set about reproducing, and for a potentially immortal construct like Data, there really is no need to use reproduction as a means to continue existing. And when an organism does reproduce, what is it that is reproducing? The organism or its DNA? It is sometimes argued that an organism is merely a vehicle used by DNA to produce copies of itself; that a chicken is an egg's way of producing another egg. If it really is the DNA that is reproducing, then it is extremely difficult to define the life status of the host organism in terms of reproduction.

The Grove/Newell definition solves these problems by using the phrase 'ensures its persistence in time', which encompasses the idea of reproduction without explicitly requiring it. A non-reproducing organism is alive because it strives to continue its own life, while one that does breed can be considered as ensuring even greater persistence in time by extending its DNA into the next generation. The non-ability to reproduce does not make an individual non-living, so while it is interesting to speculate about whether or not Data is capable of reproduction, it cannot be used to determine whether or not he is alive.

Another major aspect of life that might exclude Data is his origins. Many religious people firmly believe that only God can create life and, to them, an artificial construct cannot possibly be alive. Even non-religious

people may consider that life must have arisen by itself, and that it cannot, by definition, be manufactured artificially. In a similar vein, it could be argued that all known life is carbon-based, and that Data cannot be alive because his body is composed of non-organic materials. It is certainly true that many biologists choose to define life in terms of carbon compounds. Both of these criteria, however, share the common problem that they are not in themselves sufficient to define life, and are therefore arbitrary. Rocks and galaxies occur naturally but are not alive; sugar and alcohol are compounds of carbon yet they are not life forms; and when an organism is dead, it cannot be designated 'alive' simply because it arose naturally and contains carbon.

Why is it, then, that some organic compounds are alive and some are not? A virus is a piece of nucleic acid wrapped in a coat of protein. What is it that makes a virus alive, and a beakerful of naturally occurring proteins and nucleic acids not alive? The Grove/Newell definition tells us that a virus is a living organism because there is a maintenance system within its structure that ensures its persistence in time, and a beakerful of organic chemicals is not alive because it does not have such a system. The existence within a collection of molecules of a functioning self-preservation system IS the existence of life; they are the same thing. The absence of a maintenance system is non-life, and the breakdown of the system is death. And there is no objective reason why that system should be required to be carbon-based. Any system of molecules possessing the will and the means to preserve its own existence, is just as much alive as a virus. If an artificial device like Data seeks his own survival then, regardless of his origins or the material used in his construction, he must be considered a life form.

But can a machine really be alive? Surely there is something inherent in the definition of a machine that implies non-life. If by machine we mean 'a tool built by man for his own use' then a living machine is certainly a contradiction in terms, since living implies 'motivated by self' and machine implies 'motivated by man'. Data, of course,

is not a machine in this sense of the word. If, however, machine is taken to mean 'mechanistic and predictable' then living machines already exist. As more and more advances are made in the field of biochemistry, the more we see how mechanistic living organisms are. Life may be very complex, but the basic processes really are machine-like, and we are forced to regard all carbon-based life, including ourselves, as living chemical machines. There is nothing degrading about this view; life is a special kind of machine. What makes us different from ordinary mechanical devices is that our mechanisms are directed toward ensuring our persistence in time and theirs are not; a computer is designed to compute, not to continue being a computer. Data, however, does have mechanisms which are directed towards survival, as we do, and that makes him alive like us, despite his structural similarity to the non-living machines we are all familiar with.

Perhaps one day artificial life will

become a reality. To be alive, a machine would not need to be any more complex than an amoeba, and since living organisms do exist it must be possible, in principle, to copy their mechanisms. In practice, however, this might prove very difficult to achieve. To create a device as sophisticated as Data we would also need to copy the mechanisms of intelligence and consciousness, and that would be even more difficult, though again not impossible in principle. But would such an enterprise be desirable? Did Soong, I wonder, ever consider what might happen to his androids once he had created them? Looking at the appalling way many people treat life forms that already exist, including our very close cousins the apes and monkeys, it seems all too likely that artificial life would merely provide Humans with something else to exploit and abuse. Perhaps it would be better for us not to begin designing our machines to be living entities, and to leave the likes of Data and his brother Lore to the somewhat kinder world of Star Trek.

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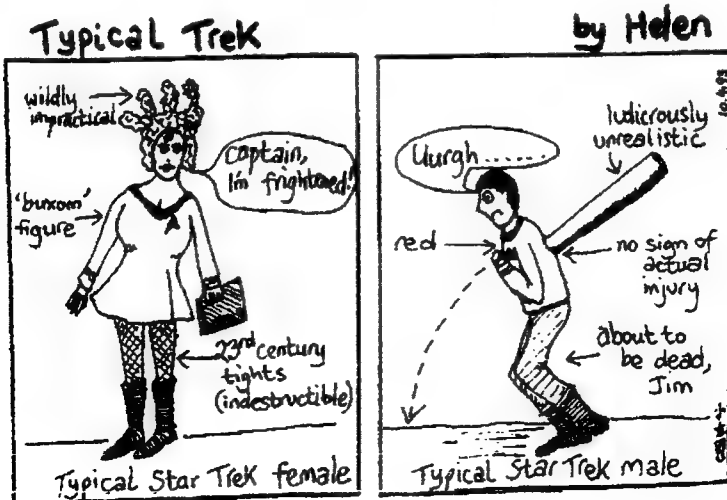
JIGWORD ANSWERS

(Working from top to bottom and left to right)

ACROSS: Lazarus, Koloth, Riley, Crusher, Worf, McCoy, Guinan, Enterprise, Spock, Rael, Uhura, Pike, Troi, Yar, O'Brien, Data.

Sarek, Roddenberry, Lore, Miramanee, Trelane, Number One

DOWN: Lethe, April, Kor, LaForge, Scott, Stardate, Flint, Rand, Chekov, Wesley, Sulu, Chapel, Kirk, Lurry, Lindstrom, Picard, Riker, Arex, DeSalle, Green, Lora, Elaan, Webb



IN DEFENCE OF 'THE OUTCAST'

by Gary Heron

SPOILER ALERT This article is written in response to criticism of the fifth season TNG episode *The Outcast*.

The *Outcast*, while dealing with the prejudice of the genderless J'nai against those of them who show a preference towards a gender, is an obvious allegory for homophobia in present day society.

Lee Sansome points out that the genderless J'nai are all played by women. I agree to an extent with the point she makes that male actors in the roles would have made for a more powerful drama and like her I applaud Jonathan Frakes' willingness to play alongside a male in the role of Soren. I do think that there is one great benefit having the J'nai played by women; the audience will tend to view the Riker/Soren relationship as a heterosexual one with which, since most of the audience will be heterosexual, they can identify closely. This close identification helps the audience to put themselves in Soren's place as she faces the prejudice of her own people and since the story is basically allegorical, to get a better idea of the prejudice many gay people experience.

Peter J Poole complains that Soren's asking for sympathy at her trial weakens the power of her speech. My reply to that is simply that Soren does not ask for sympathy, she asks for understanding and compassion - surely that is not too much to ask from one's fellow beings.

As for the concept of those J'nai who prefer a gender being throwbacks. The idea of throwbacks has as far as I know no real biological basis; if we are to accept the basis of Soren's sexuality as genetic then it would simply be part of the genetic diversity that any species has and which in evolutionary terms is a strength. It may well be that the throwback idea is promoted by the J'nai government to justify their programme of psycho-tectic treatment (brainwashing). On Earth there has been a vast number of

pseudo-scientific explanations (many contradictory) of why some people are gay and even today there is no clear understanding of the causes of Human sexuality.

Stephen Shaw in an interesting article about homophobia expressed reservations about the ending of the episode, feeling that it suggested "...that a person with 'unnatural' preferences is unhappy, easily treated of their illness and readily converted to a happy natural preference". I too would be worried about the ending if I thought this was what it was saying, but I disagree strongly with Stephen's analysis.

Firstly the J'nai refer to gender preference as unnatural and a perversion; they have to justify the extreme way they treat those with gender preference but they also explain it as a 'throwback' to an earlier period of their evolution, hardly unnatural, and they also by definition class their own ancestors as unnatural and perverted.

Secondly, with regard to gender preference J'nai being unhappy, of course they are!!! They live in a society where they cannot openly express their love, where they must meet in secret, where the smallest slip leaves them open to arrest; how could they be anything other than unhappy? But in all Soren says it is clear that the unhappiness is a product of how they are treated by the other J'nai and not as a result of their gender preference.

Thirdly, regarding the treatment Soren receives and her being happier afterwards - the treatment is nothing less than brainwashing. Earlier in the episode Soren recalls seeing the result of psycho-tectic treatment on a school mate. Far from being pleased that such treatment was available and seeking it out, 'she' says, "After that, I knew how dangerous it was to be different. And as I got older and realised what I was, I was terrified. I've lived with that fear ever

since." During her courtroom speech she states, "I am not sick because I feel this way. I do not need to be cured... what right do you have to change us?"

In the episode it is clear that what is being done through psycho-tectic treatment is brainwashing. Soren is taken away against her will and her mind is artificially altered. When we see her after the treatment, she is no longer able to relate to the person she was originally; in a very real sense her original self has been killed. Her happiness is just a product of the process and is as artificial as her new personality. The J'nai's level of technology has given them the ability to make these changes to a citizen's mind to destroy personality and beliefs and replace them with whatever they wish, but nowhere in the episode are they seen to have the moral right to do so. Rather than the ending of the episode being a cop-out, I think the writer has given a chilling picture of a society where homophobia has been pursued to its logical conclusion.

During the writing of this article I noticed some similarities between this episode and the famous lesbian novel *The Well of Loneliness* by Radcliffe Hall. In this novel, by following the life story of a lesbian, the author gives an insight for the reader into the hatred and bigotry the character endures. The book ends with a plea for understanding and compassion (much as Soren does in the episode); after its publication in 1928 it was banned until 1948. Interestingly, at the very end of the book, when the souls of all the gay and lesbian people in the world are seen to ask for compassion, they describe themselves as "We, the outcast..."

In my opinion, *The Outcast* ranks as one of the best 'message' episodes of *Star Trek*, ranking alongside *Darmok* and *Devil in the Dark*. Through the use of allegory it provides a powerful warning of the evils of homophobia and presents a plea for understanding and respect between people of different sexual orientation which is in the best tradition of IDIC.



REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



THE STARSHIP TRAP by Mel Gilden
Pocket Books 64 \$5.50 (£4.70)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

The *Enterprise* is challenged by a Klingon ship, the Captain of which accuses the Federation of destroying Klingon ships. Kirk then discovers that Federation and Romulan ships are also vanishing. At the current rate of disappearances, the Federation (at least) will be left without any starships inside two years.

This is yet another of the 'Enterprise saves civilisation as we know it' books. The basic plot is, I suppose, adequate, and its development not too bad. It falls down on the writing. It suffers from one of the most basic faults of amateur writing - a fault that I think few amateur editors of any experience would let pass; in the 'interests' of being mysterious, don't tell anyone anything. Told to obey Conrad Kent's orders, Kirk finds it

impossible to get any; he's told, 'Go to Starbase 12 - you'll find out there'. Told at Starbase 12 that he will get the information from Professor Omen, Kirk initially finds it impossible to meet the man (to the point where I began to suspect that Omen didn't really exist). If a man is trusted enough by Starfleet to be promoted to Captain, the person who is supposed to give him his orders will give them to him, not play power games with secrecy!

I had one major quibble with the alternative universe the *Enterprise* lands in at one point. There, Earth is uninhabited, and there seems to be no Federation; the Klingons of that universe are the Klingees (fair enough) but they claim to be the only people there. Spock does make a passing comment on the subject, but I found it odd that if they were the only intelligent race around, why did they have a pretty powerful weapon? To fight each other?

It was pleasant to have a female guest role who was a fairly strong character. It's just a pity that the rest of the writing wasn't as good as the development of Hazel Payton's character.

THE DEVIL'S HEART by Carmen Carter
TNG hardback Pocket Books \$20 (£14.99)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

The Devil's Heart is a stone with strange powers. It gives its holder dreams that can only be called addictive, and it is also a very powerful weapon. It first appears in the hands of the Iconians; is accidentally taken to Vulcan; passes through the hands of the Romulans and the Klingons; the Vulcans retrieve it in an archaeological dig; the Orions and the Ferengi both try to get hold of it before it ends up in Picard's hands.

The main 'story' involves the dreams it gives to Picard (giving its history) while several groups are trying to get it for their own purposes.

The above is, perhaps, an oversimplified resume of a 300-page novel. However, there is no way I would call it a coherent story. It is a series of loosely linked short vignettes; impossible to scan and not particularly easy to follow as a straight read because the chapters weren't, for me, well enough linked together. That most of these vignettes were individually excellent made trying to read this book particularly frustrating. Indeed, if I had not been reading it to review it for the newsletter, I would probably have abandoned it half-way through. The story just didn't make me care what happened.

I found certain aspects of the resolution of the book unconvincing, because once again someone seemed to believe in not giving the rest of the intelligent galaxy important information.

Perhaps I'm getting picky as I get older - I seem to be saying this quite a lot in reviews these days; the basic idea was competent enough, but I found the handling of it weak. It was almost as if, having written herself into a corner through the 'abilities' of

the stone, Ms Carter found herself unable to extricate herself in a believable manner and was unwilling - or due to a deadline date, unable - to go back to an earlier stage and redevelop her story.

I know, from reading her earlier Trek books (especially Dreams of the Raven), that Ms Carter can be a good writer, but I'm afraid that this one will do little for her professional reputation.

STAR TREK CHRONOLOGY by Michael Okuda & Denise Okuda Pocket Books
\$14.00 (£11.95)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This large format book owes its origins to what Mr Okuda saw as the need for some sort of time line in order to keep the events in Star Trek's history in credible order. Many episodes make references to "X happened millennia ago", "A did Y about a hundred years ago" or "We last made contact with B Z years ago". He therefore set out to compile a rudimentary time line; at around the same time, Gene Roddenberry expressed some concern with the difficulties involved in keeping the events inside Star Trek consistent and suggested that Mr Okuda try to compile something, not knowing that such a project had already been begun.

The main source used was the aired episodes (not early drafts). Over 200 hours of episodes and films were involved (except for Yesteryear the animated shows were not included) and were watched for any references to past events in Trek's history. Dates for these events were then extrapolated.

The result is a fascinating 'history' beginning 15 billion years ago (taken from scientific theory) and taken into the 33rd century AD, and the attention to detail is scrupulous. Some of the dates are factual, taken from historical or contemporary accounts, but most are based on Trek stardates or on comments made during the course of an episode; the source of the comment is given, and some conjectures are included. (I particularly liked the comment on 'Chicago Mobs of the Twenties' -

published in 1992. "...no doubt due in print soon from Pocket Books, albeit a little behind schedule.")

A few inconsistencies came to light as the Chronology was compiled, but it is surprising how well everything does fit together, time-wise. There are several appendices, the first of which involves events for which no date can realistically be assigned (eg Earth's first contact with aliens).

For anyone who is interested in Trek's 'history' this book is a must. It's not actually a book to sit down and read, but it's one to refer to, and for any budding Trek writer who wants to make references to some particular event mentioned in an episode it is a necessity. It is well illustrated by small black and white photos from Classic Trek and TNG, and dedicated simply 'for Gene'.

STHE ROMULAN PRIZE by Simon Hawke
TNG 26 Pocket \$5.50 (£4.70)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

On a routine patrol, the Enterprise picks up a distress call on a Romulan frequency, and answers it, to find a new design of Romulan ship, its crew all dead, apparently suffocated. This is all part of a Romulan plot to find Hermeticus 2 - a planet quarantined by the Federation, a planet whose existence is known to very few in the Federation; the Romulans are convinced that there is a secret Federation base there.

With the Enterprise crew captured, the Romulans set out to find Hermeticus - and are convinced that their suspicions are correct when a Federation starship is found orbiting the planet. Things are not as easy as that, however (obviously!) and the Romulans have a lot to learn.

After Devil's Heart, this book came as a welcome change. This one I read at a sitting (despite incoming material for the newsletter glaring at me accusingly) and thoroughly enjoyed. I even liked the Romulans - Valak and Korak, in particular, were extremely well drawn.

The story is well handled and

everything proceeds in a straight line from A through B, C, D, E and F to G - again a welcome change after Devil's Heart, which took what one might call the scenic route from the middle to the beginning before reaching the end. 8.5 out of 10.

THE SIEGE by Peter David DS9 2 Pocket Books \$5.50 Reviewed by Zander Bruce

The first original Deep Space Nine novel, and written by Peter David, no less. After such novels as Q in Law and Imzadi, I had myself watering with anticipation. I have to say I was not disappointed.

It's understandable, Mr David's dilemma at having to write a novel with only 5 scripts for background information on characters. Peter's sense of humour shines through once again with such scenes as Quark's holosuite simulation XXX-three, featuring a scantily-clad Major Kira Nerys and Lt Jadzia Dax. Also high on the funny list was his scenario of Odo as Fluffy the pony.

Behind this veil of humour is a murder/thriller mystery that really keeps you on the edge of your seat.

The wormhole has become too dangerous to enter, crushing anything that tries. The proof of this is a destroyed Borg ship, mangled while attempting to cross to Bajoran space from the Gamma Quadrant.

As if that wasn't enough, a vicious and brutal killer is loose on DS9, his victims seemingly random. Being a shapeshifter, presumed to be of the same species as Odo, he proves difficult to track except from his trail of victims. Then, just to top it all, DS9 has a Cardassian and an Edman warship firing upon it.

Quite simply, this is the most enjoyable ST novel I've read since his creation Imzadi about a year ago. Well worth it. This copy cost me only £3.60, but different shops charge different prices (the bane of US imports). Well recommended.

THE STAR LOST (ST:TNG) by Michael Jan Friedman/Peter Krause/Pablo Marcos Titan Books 1993, 140 pp £7.99
Reviewed by Chris Bailey

Caught reading comics at my age? Well, only technically. The Star Lost is one of several large format graphic novels which seem to have appeared intermittently out of the woodwork these last few years, with mixed results. I suppose you could equally argue that the 'logical' evolution of the pulp comic of yesteryear is the graphic novel of today; the visual action is very much the same, albeit more colourful and professionally produced, except that it has been repackaged into modern day expectations.

Interesting, yes, but I'm still not sure I like them all that much, but perhaps that is because I started reading conventional comics from a very early age and have conservative views. Having said that though, I must agree that The Star Lost contains some stunning illustrations, artfully created by a team of professionally dedicated people, who have striven hard to give the reader that little extra something that other comics don't always have. The Star Lost is a *Trek* graphic novel, the story situated within the same universe as conned by Captain Jean-Luc Picard and crew.

One final point. At £7.99 for 150 pages plus a fancy cover, I'm still *not* entirely convinced that it's worth the money. Perhaps this is one reason why graphic novels are not as popular as they could be...

GENERAL REVIEWS

by Stephen Shaw

SUPERSTAR FACTS AND PIX NO 28 PRESENTS THE HISTORY OF STAR TREK: A TRIBUTE TO THE ORIGINAL CREW

The American magazine was spotted in a local newagents, with a cover price of £1.50, a good price for any colour magazine, let alone an American one. It sold out within days!

It runs to an unusual 76 pages, A4 size, with a number of high quality colour pictures, often full-page size. There is an A2 poster folded in the middle listing all 79 Classic episodes.

The editorial comes from mainly two scribes - the editor, Toni Lone Hawk, and from J White Feather.

There are 24 full page pictures (3 are not ST) and 15 interview-style articles with our leading players from BOTH generations. There is also coverage of the films and DS9 - quite a worthwhile addition to the souvenir collection.

You may have noticed the contributors' names up there? In the George Takei interview the rather interesting point is taken of comparing the creation of internment camps for American citizens (who just happened to be of Japanese extraction) during WW2, and the Indian Reservations. Not a viewpoint you would find in a more 'mainstream' American magazine. If you have not heard, George Takei (when young) was a 'prisoner' in just such an internment camp, in Arkansas. George was remembering the 50th Anniversary of executive order 9066, which resulted in the summary detention of US citizens.

HARDWARE REVIEWS - The appearance of DS9 has resulted in a booming of ST souvenirs. IDIC members might quite like the attractive IDIC brooches and pendants. I have a Star Trek SFX key ring which has 8 digitised sounds from the Classic series, and being digitised they are very convincing.

I have not worked out which episode the 'scanners' sound is from, and the 'photon torpedoes' do not seem to have had a very consistent sound or appearance. The turbolift doors is a double whoosh, so you have to step through between! Red Alert is excellent, as are the tchick, tchick sounds the communicators make when flipped open and the 'Hailing frequencies' sound - which is the sound used before such messages as "Captain Kirk to the bridge" - more of a PA chime really.

FISHER SPACE PENS (seen in Charity Christmas catalogues but not by me in real shops!) have produced a nice Star Trek souvenir pen for a mere \$5. If you have not heard of them, these are the pressurised ball points designed for NASA use in space, able to work in extremes of temperature, upside down, under water etc. Guaranteed not to dry out (but not, alas, to write and write and write for ever!). An appropriate and inexpensive souvenir.

From DS9 the Bajoran ear rings look splendid. When will they appear at a con? (They have? Which one?) *[Sheila - Warp One. Where else?]*

ST:TNG WRITER/DIRECTORS GUIDE

1989-90 Paramount Booklet

Reviewed by Edward Woo

This guide was generated by Gene as an aid to writers and directors within Paramount, to provide a background to develop stories. It was intended not to be circulated, but you know what ST fans are like about getting information! It is a loose-leaf A4 size booklet of 70-odd pages.

The guide is divided into sections, of which the first describes the ST format. It needs the right type of story that will interest people today despite its 24th century background. Another point, it must try to show Humans in the future as better than today's.

Each of the characters is described, and their history, plus how each character is related to a number of others on the ship. This is the bulk of the guide.

Two pages describe the script style. Each episode is 43 minutes long and the Captain's Log and other supplemental logs give voice-overs about a story that would save several scenes. Script believability is the essential element.

It gives a list of stories that wouldn't work in TNG, including stories where the crew and vessel are galaxy policemen; stories with the original Trek crew; villains in space and mad scientists are other forbidden ideas.

More sections of the booklet describe the ship, the bridge layout and standing sets. Money is no longer used; the use of the holodeck is limited to 3 or 4 episodes per season otherwise it would be used too much.

In the ST terminology pages, the Earth's and Human problems of today have been resolved by the 24th century. Starfleet is not a military organisation, though some of its duties coincide; its main aim is to expand the body of Human knowledge.

The tractor beam is an electronic grappling hook. Computers are intelligent so they can be addressed 'tell me' or 'show me' and decipher Human needs.

It's a nice booklet to read of what Gene's thoughts and ideas were about TNG. Some would change, and some would stay. But it's a good guide for budding TNG writers looking for background information. I particularly liked the section where the characters and their relationships with the others are described.

STARFLEET MEDICAL REFERENCE

MANUAL E Palestine Ballantine Books 1977
160pp Out of print.

Reviewed by Edward Woo

I've been looking for for this man for some time, and thanks to some IDIC members I've not got it. I don't know if it has ever been reviewed in the past, but I thought it worth reviewing anyway.

It's an excellent read and I can see why it is sought. It has the feel and resembles the style of the ST Technical Manual. Some elements of it have been incorporated into the book *The Worlds of the Federation*.

The manual is divided into chapters and sections, with an introduction by 'John Gill' (*Patterns of Force?*) The historical time line has many notable medical advances, including a cancer-inhibiting plant in the 21st century.

Within the medical pages there are 2 sections of drugs and diseases. I enjoyed these two bits because of the way they are

laid out. Subdivided with names and chemical composition, action, signs and symptoms, clinical usage and even treatment. Still no cure for the common cold yet!

Life Sciences has pages on plants and parasites, though I wouldn't call a tribble a parasite... though maybe they are to a Klingon. I had not realised that there were so many plants in ST history. Other items included alien, Human and Vulcan physiology. Next time we'll know where exactly is the Vulcan heart.

Further into the manual there's a chapter on first aid. I didn't like the details on burns - enough to make anyone shudder.

The final chapter describes Dr McCoy's medical equipment, including the sickbay scanner. Now I know what those floating pointers mean, the next time I see them. The extreme right hand side pointer is for blood pressure, and should be non-existent for a Vulcan!

This is a very collectable item and a must for any ST fan.

ZINE REVIEW

MAKE IT SO 11 Poppies by Gaile Wood
Reviewed by Sara Jackson. £4 from Scotpress

The Enterprise is summoned to the planet Injaab, where treacherous Ferengi mischief is at its deadliest. Picard is reunited with an old friend and Dr Crusher finds herself faced with a life-threatening challenge.

Gaile Wood has created an intricate and absorbing culture in the form of the Injaabii people; her individual characterizations are both believable and riveting. The Enterprise crew are exactly how we would expect them to be and the character of Ambassador Leltorin is a wonderful diplomatic foil for Captain Jean-Luc Picard.

The writing is excellent, the story flowing beautifully fluently. This zine has just about everything, so all I can say is - congratulations, Gaile. Great stuff!

For anyone who hasn't yet got a copy - what are you waiting for! If you want a decent read then take a look at Poppies. Yes, I think it's safe to assume that I recommend this one: 9 out of 10.

IDIC LOG 14 (TNG ISSUE)
Reviewed by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

A pleasant surprise, this one. I was

glancing through the zines at Warp One and found it.

The cover is illustrated with an unusual drawing of Beverly Crusher by Gill Marsden. Like the other illustrations it is very good (here speaks an O level art reject).

I had already read Full Circle and Solutions by Jackie Schmidt when I received them as a kind of Christmas present. Nevertheless I thoroughly enjoyed reading them again. Full Circle is a continuation of her story Personality Clash but in my opinion lacks the raw violence of the first. It deals with the visit of the Enterprise to Travai and a renewal of a conflict started many years before. But I wish there had been a bit more depth...

Solutions is an interesting idea and equally typical of Jackie's style. An Enterprise crewmember, granddaughter of an Orion trader, must find an answer to the fact that her adoptive parents, a Vulcan and a Klingon, are trying to marry her off before her grandfather sells her to a Ferengi. The answer is quite unusual!

Short and to the rather painful point is Sherry Golding's A Sacred Word, dealing with the problems caused when a word in normal use is considered sacred and to speak it, blasphemy. Poor Riker gets into all kinds

of trouble. Sherry's other story also deals with a certain First Officer. Young Riker's Championships has him in an Olympic trail. I won't say more as it would spoil the story. Well-written and worth reading.

The Deceivers by Heather Noyce is a confusing but interesting story of plot and counterplot, but to attempt to unravel any of it here would just ruin it for anyone who has not read it. The Romulans are up to their usual tricks.

The four short poems I found extremely good. As I'm a Q fan I liked Riker's Temptation by Helen Connor particularly. She has got the slightly mocking Q's lines down to perfection.

There is another contribution in this zine but to be honest I'm in no position to review it. All I can do is apologise for it because it was written as a character study after seeing about 5 TNG episodes. What an Enterprise!, credited to TQ, is a script set in a dilapidated coach hire company... but the characters are a little more familiar to us all. For those who don't know, I'd better explain that the Vulcan passenger is NOT Spock.

Apart from the last piece of lunacy, it is a very good zine, my usual congratulations to all concerned, and certainly well worth adding to any collection.

IDIC LOG 14, obtainable from IDIC, U.K. £4

BESIDE MYSELF 3 Merry Men Press
Reviewed Valerie Piacentini.

This is a K/S zine. On an alien planet, Kirk and Spock have the chance to talk, to discover where their relationship is going. The Mirror characters find that trust and commitment are possible. Spock's visions during a psycho-scan reveal a problem to be shared - and resolved. In an alternate universe Kirk lands on Vulcan to meet and rescue a mute, outcast Spock. In conversation with an alien leader, Kirk learns a lot about himself and Spock. Kirk had always wanted to see a more 'Human' Spock; a transporter accident grants his wish - but is

it the Human or the Vulcan Spock he needs?

I was impressed by the variety of stories in this zine; they presented ideas and raised questions, rather than being merely a catalogue of bedroom scenes, and I found several new ideas to consider. The sexual detail is not overwhelming; although it is quite explicit in a few places, most of the stories do not go into specifics.

The cover illos are clever, the front cover being a nude of the 'Human' Spock, the back cover a rear view of the Vulcan. However, you would want to be careful if opening the zine at the breakfast table.

Beside Myself 3, 148 pages, costs \$20.00 US, \$26.00 foreign, and is available from: Merry Men Press, 274 Roanoke Rd, El Cajon, California 92020.

FIRST TIME 34 Merry Men Press
Reviewed Valerie Piacentini.

The latest I have seen of the long-running K/S series from Robin Hood, one of fandom's most prompt and reliable editors.

Unable to remain on the Enterprise with his hopeless love for Kirk, Spock requests a transfer. An anomaly causes dream-fantasies in the Enterprise crew (McCoy's vision of Uhura would not be easy to explain to that young woman!), and Kirk has to face his fear of being alone. Spock discovers that jealousy can sometimes have a positive result. A new computer experiment is designed to select compatible ships' crews - but can also find the perfect mate. A night out with Scotty leaves Kirk with a bad hangover - and a guilty conscience. Thrown back into Vulcan's past when his shuttle crashes, Kirk meets a powerful Warlord. (This story contains very explicit detail, and has the weakness of offering no explanation for Kirk's eventual return to his own time.) Spock takes extended leave to be with his dying lover. Kirk suddenly realises that he might not return, and unaware of his reasons, beams down to find him. Although involving an 'outsider', I nevertheless enjoyed this story.

This zine included two points that have irritated me from time to time over the years. Why, pray, would there be a Vulcan Embassy ON VULCAN? And why is it so difficult to portray McCoy as concerned, without making him nosey? Doctor or not, an uninvited intrusion into a friend's private quarters is stepping over the bounds.

Apart from this, the zine has much to offer the K/S reader, though of course anyone opposed to the subject should avoid it. The series in general covers a wide range of subjects and authors, and as with all Robin's zines, is supplied promptly.

The covers show a nude Kirk and Spock on the front, Kirk standing behind Spock; on the back cover they are embracing. Again, don't open over the breakfast table.

First Time 34, 152 double-columned pages, costs \$20.00 US, \$26.00 foreign, from Merry Men Press, address as above.

UNDISCOVERED COUNTRIES JOURNAL Vol 1, No. 1. Apr/May 1993

Science News and Science Fiction

This 22-page American magazine gives the appearance of being a newsletter-come-

factual-zine. Most of the articles in this issue are written by the editor (4 of the 5 staff have the same surname, which makes it very much a family affair).

There are short articles about one or two of the actors, some snippets of scientific fact, some gossip, something about the Klingon language, a short 'script' that seems to be based on 'Vulcan's secession from the Federation' as postulated in Spock's World (though set in TNG's time) and a short story - an alternate prequel to ST VI, telling how the conspiracy recruited Saavik. (This last was not properly proofed; the first half of the second column of it was printed after the second half, and is a mistake that should have been caught.)

The articles were interestingly written, but I felt that the story and the script were included in this issue to fill space and make the zine an acceptable length. Well, the first issue of anything is liable to have problems filling its pages; I would like to see two or three more issues before passing a definite opinion on its quality.

I did however feel that for its length it is rather over-priced; \$4.95 inside America, \$5.95 abroad (or \$23.95 a year in America, \$29.95 abroad). Available from *Future Shock*.

☆☆☆☆☆



NEW ZINES



Kay Stagg

LIFELINE; GATHERING STORMS; THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE; THE SILENT CRY; A MAJOR CRISIS WITH THE URUS MAJOR MINERS. Stories by Kay Stagg

Lifeline - Kirk is sent on medical leave after the events on the Tantalus colony but finds himself in a position of even more trauma; **Gathering Storms** - the Enterprise is ordered into a zone which is hazardous because of frequent ion storms, only to discover that things are even worse than he had expected; **The Spirit of Enterprise** - A short story about

Kirk's love and affinity for his ship and his First Officer; **The Silent Cry** - Spock helps Kirk deal with the overdosing with stimulants needed while destroying the amoeba; and two stories reprinted from the American zine *Mind Meld VI*. 138 pages, U.K. £4.60 inc P & P. (see zine ads)

LEGENDS - stories by Waltraud Zucha-Glass and Jennifer Cobbing, including **The First Time** - a one page story by WZ about Kirk's first foray into the realms of H/C; **Of Noble Knights and Ladies Fair** by WZ - Kirk takes on the guise of a knight in armour and he is

sent to destroy a dragon; Resolution by JC - Kirk and Spock are marooned on a planet where they discover a lost colony of Humans. How the Humans have evolved in order to

survive, affects Kirk in more ways than one. 93 pages, U.K. £3.75 inc P & P. From Kay Stagg.

☆☆☆☆

You can send your Zine Ads to either Janet or Sheila. While we will try and print them in full we reserve the right to edit for length if necessary. We will print these ads in two consecutive newsletters only unless we receive an update.

IDIC/Scotpress

IDIC LOG 14 - a special NEXT GENERATION issue. A crew woman with a marriage planned for her seeks Barclay's help; a follow-up mission to Travaia has problems; and others. U.K. £4

IDIC LOG 15 - The Daystrom Labs appear to be haunted; Chekov begins to behave out of character; and others. U.K. £4

IDIC LOG 12 - THE TVARON CHRONICLES VOL 1 (stories 1 & 2) £3.80

IDIC LOG 13 - THE TVARON CHRONICLES VOL 2 (stories 3 & 4) £4

Told by Kirk, The TVaron Chronicles by Gloria Fry is a series of alternate universe stories in which Kirk is assigned to the Vulcan ship TVaron in an attempt to see if Humans can work successfully with Vulcans.

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 89 - features Alea Jacta Est - the Enterprise has brought Merik back from the Roman planet to be courtmartialled; and others. U.K. £4.00

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 88 U.K. £4.00

MAKE IT SO 14 Dr Crusher is accidentally left behind on an evacuated planet that is suffering radiation poisoning; and others. U.K. £4 due April

MAKE IT SO 13, 12 - U.K. £4.each

MAKE IT SO 11 - A novel, POPPIES, by Gaile Wood. U.K. £3.90

Accepting submissions for issue 19 on.

Still available many other titles. Order from Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH. Please

make cheques/POs payable to Scotpress. Visa/Access/Mastercard accepted.

Foreign prices: Europe, add £1 per zine; Australia/Japan write to Sheila for prices, enclosing an SAE + IRC.

We have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell IDIC & Scotpress zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

Send submissions of TNG material to Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee, Scotland, and Classic Trek material to Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

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DATA ENTRIES - The Brent Spiner/Data newsletter, although later issues tend to feature more stories involving Data and/or Lore. Nos 1 - 4 \$1 each, 5 - 12 & 15 - 18 \$1.50 each, all + postage 4 oz each, 13/14 \$3 + 8oz

READY AND WILL-ING - The Jonathon Frakes newsletter. Issues 2 - 8 available, \$4 + postage (4oz)

TREXINDEX SUPPLEMENT 7 - The latest tome in this ST/TNG/DS9 fan fiction/fanzine guide weighs in at 3.5 pounds; over 500 pages of entries indexing over 400

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Linda Wood -

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LEGENDS - stories by Waltraud Zuch-Glass and Jennifer Cobbing. 93 pages, U.K. £3.75 inc P & P.

Other titles available; SAE for info on prices and availability.

For other items, ie pens, pencils, notebooks, bookmarks, etc, please send SAE for information. I have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell these zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

ORION PRESS

A Long Way Home - TNG novella by Jo-Ann Lassiter, 106 pp. U.K. \$15.75 airmail; Eridani 20, TNG short stories by various writers, 160pp U.K. \$18.75 airmail; Tantalus 6 - short stories (CT & TNG) with the accent on pain, death and sorrow, due July; Idylls 9, short stories focussing on character relationships (TNG), due July. Many other titles available. Cheques, etc, in US funds only, made payable to Randall Landers. Randall Landers, 3211 Saddleleaf Drive, Albany, Georgia 31707-2952, USA.

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New! **NO ALTERNATIVE** by Glen David, a Star Trek - Blake's Seven crossover story. £4.75 inc p&p in UK. Available from L. R. Muir, 1 Moor Park Avenue, Leeds LS6 4BT. Send SAE for full details of our Star Trek and Professionals zines, new and reprinted.

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IN THE WILDERNESS 2 - Why didn't Spock say his father was the Vulcan Ambassador? How does Amanda put up with husband and son? And much more! Prices as ITW1.

IN THE WILDERNESS 3 available. SAE for price.

Please note **VOICE 1 - 4** are out of print. Orders already in for No. 2 will be filled as soon as possible. Mrs. Rosemary Wild, 'Cwm Croeser', Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hants. K/S and adult relationships. Age statement, please.

Sue Embury

ALEXANDER Kirk and Spock find themselves trapped in Ancient Babylon during the fabled reign of Alexander the Great. Will Alexander prove to be the hero of legend or just another despot? The realities of life in this era are both brutal and exciting, and they find they must compromise their 23rd century moral values in order to survive. UK price £4.00 inc P&P

THE BETTER MAN Alternative Turnabout Intruder story, in which Kirk is trapped in the body of a woman and no-one except Spock recognises his plight. UK price £5.00 inc P&P

IT NEVER HAPPENED - or did it? The explicit sex scene that never was in The Better Man, between Jan (female Kirk) and Spock. A brief indulgence, lavishly illustrated. Age statement, please. £2.00 inc P&P

All available from Sue Embury, Lower Bailea, Tregare, Monmouth. Gwent NP5 4JL

CONTAGION ONE - All of the fan fiction entered in the Contagion '92 writing competition contained in a single volume with a specially written forward by Jean Lorrain! Price £3.80 inclusive of p&p (ALL PROFITS TO CHARITY). Cheques/Postal Orders made payable to Contagion.

Available from Contagion, P.O. Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER 1 - a new Star Trek zine from Criterion Press. Contains both Classic and Next Gen stories (no cross-overs, short, medium and novella length. 192 pages, spiral bound with card covers. \$21 USA, \$25 Canada, \$28 UK. To order or for more information contact Criterion Press, c/o Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510 USA or UK agent Chris Smithson, 17 Osier Close, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4AY.

Criterion Press is looking for contributions for issues 2 & 3 - stories (any length, any series), artwork, cartoons, filksongs etc. Issue 2 will be Classic Trek and film based material; issue 3 will be Next Generation

INFINITE FRONTIERS

INFINITE FRONTIERS is a fan publishing team devoted to releasing some of the best possible zines we can, specialising in article-based zines, not unlike club newsletters. Our first release is the unique title, **THE FINAL FRONTIER**, a magazine on DISK for owners of the Commodore Amiga computer!! To our knowledge, this was the world's first disk based magazine for Trek fans. Our first four issues are currently available and feature work from some of the top artists and musicians on the Amiga including Tobias Richter and Bjorn A. Lynne, along with dozens of articles and a selection of art and photos. Each issue contains well over 200 A4 pages of text! (Issue 3 had almost 700 pages of articles!!!)

Don't just take our word for it though! The Final Frontier was recently reviewed in the top Amiga magazine "Amiga Shopper" and was awarded a rating of 10/10 for value for money!

Prices are: **Issue 1** (2 disks) - £3, **Issue 2** (3 disks) - £4, **Issue 3** (4 disks) - £5 and **Issue 4** (4 disks) - £5. All the above prices included P&P. Overseas orders are welcome - with no extra postage charges!! As a special offer to IDIC members, order all 4 issues for only £14.50, saving £2.50.

We are also official distributors of the highly-acclaimed music disk magazine AM/FM (also for the Amiga) produced by the top Norwegian musician Bjorn Lynne. Each issue

is packed with articles, discographies, utilities, tutorials, original music and much more. Issues 1 - 10 are currently available at only £2.50 each (again with NO additional postage costs for orders outside the UK!) for each single-disk issue. Please note that £1 from the sale of every disk goes direct to the producers of AM/FM.

All orders must be in sterling and made payable to: Simon Plumbe, 14 Rousdon Grove, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 5HN, England. Please mention IDIC when replying.

Pat Mitchell

Reprinted, at last! **BROTHER'S KEEPER** by Pat Mitchell, the Ultimate Hurt/Comfort genzine featuring Kirk and Spock. Also still available, **MOMENTS IN TIME** by Pat Mitchell, the adult TNG zine. (Age statement required). Flyers are available for both zines, send SAE. Prices include p&p: Brother's Keeper, UK £4.50, Europe £5.50. Moments In Time, UK £5.50, Europe £6.50. Available from Pat Mitchell, 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 4JU, England. Make cheques payable to Pat Mitchell.

Farpoint Press

CLASSIC ENCOUNTERS 2 - The Enterprise encounters a thousand-year-old machine; Kirk is sent to acquire a mysterious painting that could join two planets together, or start a war. Approx 20 pages. £2.00 U.K. includes p&p. Please enquire for overseas rates.

New: **CLASSIC ENCOUNTERS THREE.**

The Enterprise visits Tellus Four; Kirk is missing, can Spock find him in time?; Kirk acquires a mystic painting that can show the future; Logic puzzle; word search. Approx 26 pages. £2.00 including postage. £1.50 for those who bought issue 2 due to story overlap. Cheques to be made payable to P.C. Timms. Philippa Timms, 9 Grangeside, Shore Road, Bonchurch, I.O.W PO38 1R.

H Gibson

We're looking for Trek writers to contribute to a new Classic/NG zine. No K/S and a definite slant toward "minor" Classic characters. Any NG stories welcome. If you've any work to show us please submit stories, poems and artwork to H Gibson, 23 Blairatholl Avenue, Glasgow G11 7QJ.

SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM, a bi-monthly Visual Media newsletter edited by Bjo Trimble. Subscription Rates for 6 issues: USA \$8 Bulk mail, \$10 First Class, Canada \$12.5 Air Printed Matter, Overseas \$18 GB/Europe Air Printed Matter, \$20 Pacific Rim Air Printed Matter. Make cheques/money orders payable to: Bjo Trimble, 2059 Fir Springs Drive, Kingwood, TX 77339-1701, USA.

HiFi Media

M3 is an A5, 32 page fanzine produced on a Archimedes Acorn and each copy is laser printed to 600dpi. It covers all British and American television fantasy and science fiction and from issue four, radio as well, illustrating them with artwork and B&W photos. Regular columns include **MERCHANDISE** (photos and info on old and rare items), **TECH** (technical information on TV and video in English!), **OPINION** (a discussion topic in each issue) and **WAFFLE!** which is ... well read it and find out!

M3 : ISSUE FOUR - **NEXT GEN'S** Ensign Ro Laren, **SURVIVORS**, The Stranger - WHO?, Telefantasy Reference Books, Non-English Language **MERCHANDISE**, plus much more and ... (not forgetting) **WAFFLE!** Available May 1993.

Back issues available. Each issue costs £1.75 including postage, cheques/POs payable to Stuart Halliday, M3(IDIC), 35 Pinewood Park, Deans, Livingston, EH54 8NN.

AIRWAVES: A multi-media fan-fiction zine, A4 size, computer printed, photocopied photo covers. 70 - 100 pages per issue - 27 issues currently available, new issues out on a quarterly basis. Also available: **THE HOODED MAN** (Robin of Sherwood - 3 issues); **KNIGHT 2000** (Knight Rider - 14 issues); **FLIGHT INTO SLAVERY** (B7 crossover with Battlestar Galactica). **IN PREPARATION**, **CHILDREN OF PEACE** ('V'); **RIDER COMING IN...** (The Young Riders - 2 issues). Submissions welcome for any and all publications, no limits to length but no "/" fiction please. Amstrad users (Locoscript 1 or 2) with PCW's 8256 or 8512 (A-drive only) (3" disc) or PCW 9265 (3.5" - 720K) can submit their work on disc to save postage. Compatible computers (3.5" - 720K), please use ASCII for documents. Discs will

be sent back by return of post, manuscripts if requested. SAE (2 IRC's) for further details to: Miss B Callagher, 195 Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0TQ.

CITYPRESS/OUTER ZINE

Boldly going where everyone has gone before, an all-new combined newsletter and zine! What more could you ask for??? (Please see our OUTER ZONE ad in the "Local Group News" section for details of The Outer Zone SF/Fantasy club.) Each issue costs just 85p inc. p&p! We have back issues of ZONE GUIDE Nos 1-4 available for just £2.00 inc. p&p. Just out is ZONE GUIDE - PHASE II, Issue No. 1 (January 1992 edition) which has the WHOLE plot to Star Trek VI and the latest TNG info, stories, art, a Blake's Seven column and more! Issue No. 2 (out April 1992) will see the start of an EXCLUSIVE! We will be publishing the first part of an ACTUAL SUBMITTED TNG SCRIPT called "The Ghosts of Yesteryear"!

☆☆☆☆

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS



CONVENTIONS



UNICON '93 Universal Science Fiction Convention (about 70% Star Trek) (presented by BSFR). Venue: Unicorn Hotel, Bristol 25th - 27th June, 1993. Registration: Adults £20, kids under 14 £10, under fives free. Highlights will include: full video programme including Klingon Extravaganza - guest talks & panels - static displays - dealers' room - disco & fancy dress party - all kinds of science fiction and fantasy material plus lots & lots of fun fun fun! Send an SASE for full details to: Bernie Walsh, 55 Kildare Road, Knowle, Bristol BS4 1

CONTAGION the Scottish Star Trek Convention. 17-19 July, 1993. Venue: The Hospitality Inn, Glasgow. Guests: Nichelle Nichols, Jonathan Del Arco (Hugh from I Borg) and Richard Arnold (all subject to work commitments).. Registration: Adult (15 years +) - £35; 10-14 years - £18, under 10

What are you waiting for??? Please send cheques/p.o. payable to Susan Parker, 42 Victoria Street, BRIGHTON, East Sussex, BN1 3FQ, or an SASE for more details.

WARP NINE: Issue five is now available. The 38 pages feature articles on Doctor Who, Star Trek (all versions), The Prisoner and other cult sci-fi. Send cheque/PO for £1 made payable to the DREAMWEAVERS to the address below. Back issues available (SAE for details). Ursula Clarke, 10 Bunbury Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6HT. Enclose SAE.

GENESIS II FICTION COMPETITION.

Categories are general and adult for both OT and TNG, and poetry, with classes for under 3000 words and under 10000 words. £2 entry fee. For details/entry forms send to Genesis II Fiction Competition, 167 Kingshurst Rd, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2LL

Free. Note: children under 10 must be accompanied by at least one paying adult. Creche facilities will NOT be available. On-the-door-rates more expensive and severely limited. Hotel rates (per person per night): Single £35, Twin/Double £25; Triple £20. Price is for Bed & Breakfast and includes VAT and Service. £15 per person non-refundable deposit at time of booking. For further info send a 9" x 6" SAE to CONTAGION, PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR, Scotland.

NE'A'DRIAR VI A Two-Day Midi Star Trek Convention. 7th-8th August, 1993.

Venue: The Shepperton Moat House Hotel, Felix Lane, Shepperton, Middlesex.

Registration: £24 both days; £19 one day. Room Rates £26 - £30.

For further details, please send a SAE to: Joan Foxley, 143 Northumberland Road, North Harrow, Middlesex HA2 7RB.

HOLODECK The 36th British Star Trek Convention. 27th - 30th August, 1993 Telford Moat House Hotel. In aid of the Invalid Childrens' Aid Nationwide Charity.

Confirmed Guests: Robert Justman (Guest of Honour), Geoff Ryman (author of "Spock In Manacles"), Freda Warrington (fantasy author of the "Blackbird" series), Dr Julian Headlong (scientist extraordinaire and a wonderful speaker on topics such as alcohol and Vulcan biochemistry) and Janet Quarton (Fan Guest). **Registration:** Full £25, Fri/Sat or Sun/Mon £15, Sat/Sun £20, 1 day £10, Supporting £10. Child 10-16 half the above rates, under 10s free. **Hotel Rates,** per person per night, inclusive of full English Breakfast and VAT: £25 sharing a twin or double, £32 in a single. Send an SAE for further info and registration form to Holodeck 93, P.O. Box 29, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9TG.

LIGHTSPEED '93 Star Trek: The Next Generation Convention. 17th-19th Sept. 1993 The Hilton International Hotel, Leeds. **Guests:** Dennis Ashton, Diane Duane, Peter Morwood, Therese Eyre, Jenny Boyce and Jon Vincent-Rudski. **Registration:** £20 full, £12.50 one day, £10 supporting, £10 child 5-14 years, FREE under 5. **Room Rates:** £25 ppn (£40 Single occ/ in Double room). **Charities** RSPCA, Save the Children, Trees for Survival and The Imperial Cancer Research Fund. **Aim:** To raise £2,000 for the above charities. **Events:** Videos, talks, competitions, bars, food, displays, dealers and lots more. Send SAE to Lightspeed '93, 16 Bramwell Street, Eastwood, Rotherham, S. Yorkshire S65 1RZ.

1974-1993 BRITISH STAR TREK ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION October 1st - 3rd, 1993. The Holiday Inn, Leicester. **Registration:** £40.00 until June 1993, then £45.00 thereafter (payment by instalments if required) - **SPECIAL DISCOUNT** for attendees of 1st BRITISH STAR TREK CONVENTION - LEICESTER 1974. Full details from: Terry Elson, 8 Ennerdale Close, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4TN.

LATCON 2 The London Away Team second one-day Convention. Saturday 20th November, 1993. Video rooms featuring Trek both Classic and TNG, also hopefully DS9 latest. Featuring enlarged dealers' room, quiz, excellent bar and some food. Charity to be Sickie Cell Anaemia. Nearest tube Tottenham Court Road. Dealer enquiries welcome. For info send SAE to LATCON 2,

36 Evenwood Close, Carlton Drive, London SW15 2DA. Be there or be a Ferengi with a hat on!

T'KON 1994 - 1st - 4th April 1994 at Norfolk Gardens Hotel, Bradford. Guest - John Carrigan. American guests to be confirmed. **Registration** £25; Fri/Sat or Sat/Sun £20, Sun/Mon £15; single day, Fri. Sun, Mon £10. Sat £15. Students, unemployed or OAPs (at the time of the con) deduct £5 from above rates. Children under 16 half price, children under 5 free. **Room Rates:** £28 twin/double PPPN, £33 single per night. Cheaper accommodation is available at Bradford University. Programme - DS9, TNG and OT video rooms, workshops, guest talks, disco, theme parties (horror night, great Federation Masked Ball, mediaeval adventure), drama show, fancy dress, photograph competition, quizzes, sales room and lots more! T'Kon 1994, 167 Kingshurst Rd, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2LL

UFP CON '94 (The 37th British Star Trek Convention) 29th April to 2nd May 1994, Britannia International Hotel, London. **Registration:** £30. Under 16's half price, under 10's free. **Accommodation:** £27.50 per person in a twin, double or triple, £31.00 in a single. For a registration form and further details please send an SAE to Ros Liddle, 61 The Scotchhill, Coventry CV6 2EW.

STARBASE 93. The organisers would like to thank all those who attended and supported the Convention at the Leeds Hilton in January. The Convention has raised approximately £1200 for each of the two charities; St. Gemma's Hospice in Leeds and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The final sum raised will be presented to the charities in April. Thanks to those people who have ordered the Convention Video - it should be available by early April. Look out for Starbase 94!!! The Convention contact address is; 152 Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds LS16 5JX. Please enclose a stamped SAE.

A Major Star Trek Convention, to be held in the West of Scotland, is being planned for 1994. Anyone who is interested in helping in the organisation please phone James on 0294 63381 as soon as possible.

NON BRITISH ST CONVENTIONS

STARLIGHT UNION presents: Majel Barrett-Roddenberry and Richard Arnold. August 20-22, 1993, in Hannover, Germany. For more information please contact Angela Dargel, Am Graswege 38, W-3000 Hannover 1, Germany. Please include 2 International Reply Coupons and a self-addressed envelope.

OTHER EVENTS

MIDSUMMER TREK - Sunday June 13th, 1993. Film Centre, Sauchiehall Street. Glasgow. All 6 Star Trek Films (ST 2 - 6 are 70mm Prints) shown on giant 56 foot screen. Doors open 09.30, ST:TMP starts 10.00. All seats, all day £10. Advance booking available.

GREENWOOD IV The 4th Official ROBIN OF SHERWOOD Convention to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the series. 28th-29th August. The Shepperton Moat House Hotel. Felix Lane, Shepperton, Middlesex.

Join us for a weekend of Guests, events indoor and out and perhaps a little Magic! Weekend Registration rate & One day rates are available and may be paid by instalments. For Registration/Hotel booking forms please send a SASE to: GREENWOOD IV, c/o 16 Tonbridge Road, West Molesey, Surrey KT8 0EL. (SAE and IRCs from outside UK please.

OCTOCON 93 The Fourth Science Fiction Convention. 30th-31st October, Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Guests include: Storm Constantine, Steve Dillon, Michael Carroll, Diane Duane, Katherine Kurtz, Morgan Llywelyn, Ann McCaffrey, Scott McMillan, Peter Morwood, Michael Scott, James White. Pre-registration £15. For more info send SAE to Octocon '93, 20 Newgrove Avenue, Sandymount, Dublin 4, Ireland.

ARMADACON V The Friendly Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention. 12th-14th November, 1993. The Astor Hotel, Elliot Street, The Hoe, Plymouth, Devon.

Guests to include Danny John-Jules (Cat from Red Dwarf), Mike Jefferies & Adrian Cole. (All guests subject to work commitments.) Other guests to be announced. Events:

Writers Panel, Dealers' Room, Autograph Opportunities, Guest Panels, Competitions, Role-Playing, Charity Auction. Registration: Weekend £20 (including Friday night. One day and half day rates available on request. For more details and registration form please write enclosing an SAE to ArmadaCon V, c/o 4 Gleneagle Avenue, Mannamead, Plymouth, Devon PL3 5HL.

THE THIRTEENTH LEONARD NIMOY CONVENTION: November 19th - 21st 1993. Stakis Victoria Hotel, Nottingham. Full film programme spanning his career. Registration forms and details from Carol Davies, 43 Lawrence Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 8QB.

AWAYTEAM '95 Yes, folks, we are doing it again. Next time will be in September 1995. Join us for a terrific Trek and Space Travel theme holiday, taking in a visit to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Star Trek Adventure, Yosemite, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Paramount Studios, to name but a few of the many exciting places we will be visiting. For further details, please contact Sadie Mason & Paul Anson, 63 Woodstock Ave, Bobbers Mill, Nottingham NG7 5QP. (Once again we want to point out that we have NO CONNECTION with the Glasgow Away Team.)

PERSONAL COLUMN

Thanks to the people who wrote to me about being my pen friend. Is there anyone else out there who would like to write to me? I'm fifteen years old and I like most sci-fi and all Trek series. I'm looking for people from 14 onwards, and I don't mind which gender. Write to William Marsh, 70 Old Farm Rd, Mancetter, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 1QW, England.

Hello! I'm a 29 year old English teacher who is very interested in everything about English language, travelling, exchanging gifts, writing submissions to international English newsletters, watching detective films, and much more. I would like to write to an English-speaking girl - I will answer all the letters received. Aissa Hachemi, P.O. Box 32, Ain Nouissy, Nostaganem 27130, Algeria-

DZ, North Africa.

I would like pan pals from anywhere around the world and local. I am age 29, like music (all sorts), travel, going out, and going to conventions. I'm into all ST but at the moment into DS9. I'm into La Forge, Chekov and Dr Julian Bashir. I would also like travelling companions for the 1994 Star Trek Cruise from Vancouver to Alaska (I've already booked to go.) Maria Woodward, "Ashcroft", East Street, Westbourne, Nr. Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 8SH.

AMIGA OWNERS - I have over 20 ST disks covering all aspects of Star Trek. If you are interested please send SAE to Mr. M Payne, 5 Bassett Road, Coundon, Coventry CV6 1LF.



ADVERTS



SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept any liability. Adverts should be a maximum of 10 lines - will be printed in one newsletter only.

Please only offer original items for sale - adverts will be edited if necessary. We will not knowingly print adverts for copied material which break copyright.

FOR SALE - Bajoran (DS9) Resin military breast badge - velcro fastening good condition £3.50. Chris C. Westway, Rectory Lane, Winchelsea, E. Sussex, TN36 4EY.

FOR SALE - Star Trek Zines (Classic), Books and Media Magazines. Send SAE for list to Ingrid Smith, 24 Cliffsea Grove, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1NQ.

FOR SALE: Star Trek zines (mostly Classic Trek) gen and K/S. Please send SAE to Christine Jones, The Bungalow, Recreation Ground, Leeholm, Co Durham DL14 8HN

FOR SALE - ST:TNG Scripts: Code of Honor; The Ensigns of Command; The Hunted; The Schizoid Man; The Measure of a Man. All

items as new £5.50 each including p&p. Please contact S Jackson, 584 York Road, Killingbeck, Leeds, LS14 6AD, West Yorkshire.

FOR SALE: Star Trek T shirt - old cast (X large) @ £8. NG Inaugural Edition Cards all numbers 7p each. Maria Woodward, "Ashcroft", East Street, Westbourne. Nr. Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 8SH.

FOR SALE: Man from UNCLE paperbacks £1.50. SAE for list to Linda Smith, 32 Lyonette Road, Farlington, Co. Durham, DL1 2AT.

FOR SALE - American Paper-backs of Original Trek books. Proceeds to IDIC Guide Dog Fund. Please sent to Barbara Ellams, Flat 2, 32 St. Mary's Road, London SE15 2DW for list or call on 071 639 6714.

FOR SALE: TOS VIDEOS (£6 ea.): "The Cage", "Where No Man Has Gone Before" & "The Corbomite Maneuver", "The Menagerie I & II", "The Savage Curtain" & "All our Yesterdays" & "Turnabout Intruder" / TNG VIDEOS:- "Encounter At Farpoint", "Time Squared" & "The Icarus Factor" / GIANT NOVELS (£2.50 ea.): "Strangers From The Sky", "Final Frontier", "Enterprise - The First Adventure", "Shadow Lord", / 25th anniversary t-shirt showing Enterprise A & D + logo (£8 - medium size) / 25th anniversary jacket (£25 - medium size) / TNG CD "Encounter At Farpoint" £10 / IDIC LOG 9 £3.50 / NON-FICTION:- The World Of Star Trek" £5, "The Star Trek Compendium" £5 / Star Trek Role-Playing Game (2nd edition) £5 / Klingon Ship Recognition Manual £5 / Starfield Hex Grids (5 x 33" by 22" sheets @ £1 ea.). Phone Edwin on (0273) 734860 after 6pm.

FOR SALE - 120 Impel Next Gen Trading Cards £8. Bonus Cards O1A, O1B, O1C 40p each. Hologram cards OH1, OH2 £5.50 each. Single cards available. Eight German Next Gen Bubble Gum Stickers + wrapper 25p. Postage £1 per set, single cards and stickers SAE to Mark French, 23 Colgrove, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6HY.

WANTED - Episodes of the television series

Bare Essence (the weekly series that starred Jonathan Frakes, not the 2 part mini-series) and episodes of the television series Cover Up. J. Hurles, 4 Ailsa Tower, Cambuslang, Glasgow G72 8LP.

WANTED - Does anyone have magazine interviews/articles on David Suchet and a listing of the Poirot episodes to date, also videos of episodes which they are willing to lend me. Will pay all postage costs etc. Please contact Mandy Leahy, The Grove, Wood Lawn, Killarney, Co. Keyy, Ireland, if possible before the end of June.

WANTED - Does anybody have Impel Trading cards series 1 of classice Trek and Next Generation for sale? Prefer full sets if possible. G.A. Shaw. 32 Allanson Road, Northenden, Manchester 22, M22 4HW.

WANTED - Tape of Brent's episodes of Twilight Zone or Cheers. Also anything on Data, including any Data Entries. Jennifer Blanchard, 14 Eashing Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2JZ.

WANTED - K/S zines. Especially Bigot, Brother, Bondmate Part 2 (and 3 if there is one). and Tangled Web (have 2nd part Twisted Labyrinth) and also the 3rd part of this story (don't know title). Will pay any reasonable price for good condition zines. Please send list and prices to: Christine Jones, The Bungalow, Recreation Ground, Leeholm, Co Durham DL14 8HN

WANTED - Anything Battlestar Galactica related - particularly Mattel toys of Viper, Cylon fighter, Galactica Launch bay, Landram, and Baltar action figure. Also wanted Battlestar Galactica Novels - 4 to 13 any condition and DS9 videos. Chris C. Westway, Rectory Lane, Winchelsea, E. Sussex, TN36 4EY.

WANTED - To all those knitters out there in IDIC. Do you have any oddments of wool you don't have a use for? If so, then I can use them to crochet blankets for the puppies at the Birmingham Dogs' Home. Colour and ply does not matter. If you don't knit, but have some old hand-knitted woollens you want to get rid of, then I would welcome

those as well. Unravelling is not a problem. Anything would be much appreciated. - Lesley E. Hatch, 74 Pitfields Road, Brandhall Estate, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands B68 0RQ.

WANTED - K/S zines Gemini, Icefire, Candlelight and Flames, Inevitable Love, Nor No Man Ever Loved. I will pay any reasonable price. Contact Jenny Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX or phone 021 443 2995 after 6 pm please.

WANTED: Does anyone out there have 'War of the Worlds' (TV series) on video - either PAL or NTSC which they could copy or lend, or if they live in a region which is currently screening the series tape it for me? Honest, if you're not a fan YOU DON'T HAVE TO WATCH IT, just let the tape run adverts and all!! At the time of writing this it's on Grampian & Border on Friday nights. Ann Neilson, 105 Dundrennan Road 3/2, Langside, Glasgow G42 9SL.

WANTED - card traders for the 1991 Impel series I & II. I have loads of doubles and need people to trade with. Brenda Allan, PO Box 935, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 4H9, Canada.

WANTED - Anyone willing to sell or lend me any issues of the zine, Make It So. I will pay all postage costs. Contact Brenda Allan, PO Box 935, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 4H9, Canada.

BUSINESS SMALL ADS

FOR SALE - Badges, door plaques, keyrings, writing paper, model kits, comics and other Trek items. Also TV Zone, Starburst, Starlog. Send large SAE (and wants list) to Ferengi Bazaar, Paul and Judie Von Der Fecht, 24 Holly Court, Chester Road, Helsby, Cheshire WA6 0PH.



CLUBS & GROUPS



UPDATE

We have available a set of information

sheets giving the addresses and brief details of all the British Star Trek clubs and local groups we know about, plus Star Trek related actor clubs in the UK and abroad. If you would like a copy write and ask Janet; enclose at least a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 17p stamp. (Note: new members receive a copy of this when they join IDIC, although we update it with the following info from each newsletter.)

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

fffJF (friends, fans and followers of Jonathan Frakes) is Jonathan's unofficial fan club. Membership is \$21 a year (US money) and includes a subscription to Ready and Willing, our quarterly newsletter which features articles, reviews, art, cartoons, short fiction, a calendar of upcoming events, etc. Make cheques payable to Renee Blanchette.

If writing to enquire, please enclose addressed envelope and 2 IRCs. **fffJF**, P.O. Box 90, New Ipswich, NH 03071, USA. (New address)

NORTHERN IRELAND STAR TREK ASSOCIATION Write to 67 Meadowbrook, Craigavon, Co Armagh, N. Ireland, BT65 5AA. Tel: 0762 345498.

TEN FORWARD Star Trek: The Next Generation Fan Club. Membership open to anyone with an interest in ST:TNG or ST:D59. 3 A4 newsletters per year, sealed membership card, assignment to a ship in the Ten Forward Fleet, personal ship certificate, choose to be a Terran or one of various aliens. Registration £3.50 single, £5 family. SAE to Ten Forward Fleet Command, 18 Beckwith Road, East Herringthorpe, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S65 3PD.

SPOTLIGHT - LEONARD NIMOY INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB. (new address) Carol Davies, 43 Lawrence Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 8QB.

IAAPS (International Audience Alliance for Patrick Stewart). Note new rates for January to December 1993 are £18. Membership automatically backdated to January 1993. Membership covers 4 Stargazer and 4

Britgazer magazines. Send SAE for flyer to Pat Mitchell, 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 4JU. Make cheques payable to IAAPS.

OTHER CLUBS

LEAPERS UK: A new British Quantum Leap fan club. Send SAE for details to: 57 Eldon Road, East Wood, Rotherham, S. Yorks, S65 1RB.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

Anyone interested in starting a local group in the North West area. Please contact Samantha Tuley, 11 Heys Close, Blackburn, Lancashire BB2 4PF or Adele Hilton, 104 Elgin Street, Halliwell, Bolton, Lancashire BL1 3ET.

IDIC/Off World Society of Vulcans/Outpost/Something Else/Original Trekkers, do you want to meet for coffee and a chat first Saturday of every month 12 noon. Pretty-in-Pink Cafe, West Orchid Centre, Coventry. (Klingons permitting) Tel 0203-503113.

THE AWAY TEAM: Glasgow Star Trek Local Group. Meetings every 6 weeks approx. at the Central Hotel, Glasgow, 10.00am - 10.00pm. Come along and watch the latest videos - you will also get the chance to chat with other fans and to buy merchandise. Entry £5.00. SAE for info to The Away Team, P.O. Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR.

THE BRIDGE CREW: - formerly The Landing Party. A local group based in the south east of Scotland. Fortnightly meetings at the Ailsa Craig Hotel. The group can be contacted at Wester Auchinricoch Farm, Banton, Near Kilsyth G65 0QZ. Please enclose an SAE.

FARPOINT needs you! If you live in the Isle of Wight area then this new local group needs you. SAE for info to Philippa Timms, Silver Glade, 9 Grangeside, Shore Road, Bonchurch, Isle of Wight PO38 1RW.

HULL STARFLEET Monthly meetings at

the Tamworth Lodge, Beverley Road, Hull. June 20th, July 18th. Video programme includes Classic, TNG, DS9 and the occasional movie. Raffle, competitions, social outings, competitions. For more info: tel Hull (0482) 48562/806283 or come along to one of the meetings above.

IPSWICH STARFLEET Star Trek Fan Club encompassing all forms of Star Trek. Raffles, videos, role playing games, competitions, free news sheet, tactical combat, displays, social outings and 'Ten Forward' coffee bar! For details please write, with SAE, to Chris Wileman, 15 Parkeston Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 8NF or telephone number above.

LEEDS STARFLEET: Meetings on the 2nd Sunday of the month between 12 and 5pm at Centenary House, North Street, Leeds 2. New larger venue!!! Activities include; competitions, raffle, coffee bar, social outings and separate Video Programmes showing: Original, TNG and DS9. Write with SAE for more details to; Leeds Starfleet, P.O. Box HP 1701, Leeds LS6 4TE.

THE LONDON STAR TREK GROUP meets every two months or so at the Britannia Intercontinental Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1. Nearest Tube: Bond Street. Next meeting July 3rd, starting at 10.30 am till about 7pm, at cost of £5, children accompanied by an adult, free. For more details send an SAE to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

OPEN HOUSE First weekend of every month but please phone first to check (081 985 0426). Zines for sale, tapes to watch, other fans to chat to. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Hackney E9.

PRIME DIRECTIVE meets twice monthly at a city centre venue. Activities include days out, video evenings etc. Newcomers always welcome. Write to Michael Butcher, 501 Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3LF, for further info, enclosing an SAE.

SPACE CENTRAL The West Midlands Star Trek Group. Meetings held on a monthly

basis and there is no membership fee! What more could you want? For further information 'phone: Lee (0827) 64911, or Gaile (0827) 897613 or write to 15 Foxglove, Amington, Tamworth, Staffs. B77 4HY

STAR TREK: THE NEW GATHERING (U.S.S. Discovery). Local meetings held in the Community Room, St Helens Library monthly. Write for details to Sharon Rowe, 93 Juddfield Street, Haydock, St Helens. Merseyside WA11 0BD.

U.S.S. TIANAMEN - Kirkcaldy's new Star Trek club for the over-18s. New US imports of DS9 and TNG shown, with dealer's tables available. All enquiries contact Zander Bruce, 73 Brown Crescent, Thornton, Fife KY1 4AB, including SAE. 50% of money taken goes to IDIC Guide Dogs.

THE OUTER ZONE: meets once a month in Brighton and chat, chat and... chat about anything Trek-related and all the latest news on SF & Fantasy, and sometimes go on the odd trip to the local movie theatre or con. As an extra incentive to all you would-be members, we also watch THE LATEST up-to-date TNG episodes (HOW can you pass that up!?) We also produce our own quarterly combined newsletter/zine called "Zone Guide - Phase II" which covers all SF/Fantasy (if we can get the information! See the CITYPRESS/OUTER ZINE ad under the "Zine Ads" section for more details). Issue No.1 costs 50p (or 85p inc. p&p). For more details of the club and the newsletter, please send an SASE to Ms. Sue Parker, The Outer Zone, 42 Victoria Street, BRIGHTON, East Sussex, BN1 3FQ.

DREAMWEAVERS local group specialising in Doctor Who, Star Trek and other cult Sci-fi. Meets once every two weeks in the Bury St Edmunds/Haverhill area. (Annual membership (£5) includes free copies of our 30+ page quarterly newsletter Warp Nine (available separately). For more information please send a SAE to Ursula Clarke, 10 Bunbury Road, Bury St. Edmunds, IP32 6HT.

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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions/Renewals, renewals, all newsletter submissions on disc; all news, cuttings, adverts, merchandise info etc. for the newsletter; used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Sheila - All Zine orders; postbag, articles & reviews for the newsletter; TNG submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork); used stamps.

Valerie - Classic Trek submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork).

Helen - Submissions of crosswords, quizzes etc.

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Dues UK £7.50, USA/Middle East Air \$23.00 (£13.25), Australia £14.50, Europe £9.50.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

This is a statutory notice as prescribed by the above Act. In accordance with the conditions governing the maintenance of machine-readable records by non-incorporated members' clubs, IDIC must advise that the names and addresses of every member are held in a computer-readable format in order to more efficiently prepare and despatch newsletters. The information is used for this purpose only, and will not be disclosed to any other party whatsoever without the

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